LEARNING / H1
Ilocos' musical high school hits right notes

BUSINESS / B1
Drastic drop in remittances of OFWs seen

LIFESTYLE / D4
On piano and flute: The Coyiutos

ACROSS / A17
Kin of kidnap victims seek gov't help

SPORTS / A30
Calzaghe whips Jones in 'final' bout

China announces $586-B stimulus plan

BEIJING—CHINA ANNOUNCED A $586-billion stimulus package on Sunday in its biggest move to stop the global financial crisis from hitting the world's fourth-largest economy.

A statement on the government's web site said China's Cabinet had approved a plan to invest 4 trillion yuan ($586 billion)

CHINA A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, November 10, 2008 • 12 sections / Vol. 23 / No. 338 P18 www.inquirer.net

Destabilization talk back in season

AFTER A ONE-YEAR lull, there is again talk of a fresh destabilization plot against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Echoing the call of five bishops for "radical

DESTABILIZATION A3

SUPPORTERS of Imam Samudra, one of three executed Bali bombers, carry his body during Sunday's funeral in west Java, Indonesia. The three bombers are shown in the inset: Amrozi, Samudra and Mukhlas. AP

3 Bali bombers executed, stand defiant to the end

TENGGULUN, INDONESIA—Unrepentant to the end, three Islamist militants were executed by firing squad on Sunday for the 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people, as Indonesia braced for possible revenge attacks, authorities said.

Thousands of Indonesians poured into the streets for the funerals of the three bombers, calling them martyrs. Some scuffled briefly with police, but there were no serious disturbances.

Ringleader Imam Samudra, 38, Amrozi Nurhasyim, 47, and his brother Mukhlas, also known as Ali Ghufron, 48, were killed with shots to the heart in an orange grove near their prison on Nusakambangan island off southern Java, TV One television reported.

A source in the prison told Agence France-Presse that the three militants shouted "Allahu Akbar" (God is great!) as they were escorted out of their isolation cells by paramilitary police shortly before midnight on Saturday.

The Oct. 12, 2002, attacks—allegedly funded by Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network and carried out by members of the Southeast Asian militant group Jemaah Islamiyah—were the first of several

3 BALI A20

HK investors slam Boracay 'land grab'

But Gonzalez says they should abide by SC ruling

SUNSET IN BORACAY Nothing in the skies of the holiday island, ablaze with hues of red and yellow that form the background of sailboats on the horizon, intimates the trouble brewing below. GERRY ELLIS/WWW.ELLISPHOTOS.COM

A GROUP OF HONG KONG PROPERTY INvestors is protesting what it calls a land grab by the Philippine government on Boracay Island, the Sunday Morning Post reported yesterday.

The group is scheduled to hold a press conference today in Hong Kong to draw attention to its battle to overturn President Macapagal-Arroyo's proclamation in 2006 that classified more than half of the 1,032-hectare holiday island as government property.

The Philippine Supreme Court affirmed the proclamation last month. (See 'What went before' on Page A12.)

The law has meant that people who own some of the property in Boracay have been ordered to reapply to purchase their land, according to the report. Many have owned their properties for many years.

"It's very unfair," said Stephen Aronin, a lawyer and landowner who has been fighting the government's move in the courts, according to the Post.

Consisting of three barangays, Boracay is part of the municipality of Malay. Of the town's 17 barangays, three—Tapaz, Balabag and Manoc-manoc—are on the island.

An hour's flight south of Manila, the island has more than 30 beaches, foremost of which is the 4-kilometer White Beach with white sand, which is widely considered to be

HK INVESTORS A13

THAKSIN: Where to? AP

RP closes door on Thaksin

By Christine V. Esguerra

FILIPINOS MARVELED AT how Thaksin Shinawatra turned around Thailand's faltering economy when he spoke in Manila five years ago. This time, the ousted prime minister may find the Philippines' door closed to him should he decide to come back and seek sanctuary here.

Foreign Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin yesterday said the government would "politely" turn down any request for political refuge from the fugitive Thai leader, citing Manila's "friendly" relations with Bangkok.

RP CLOSES A10

Will GMA meet Obama this time?

By TJ Burgonio and Christian V. Esguerra

WILL SHE FINALLY CATCH Barack Obama this time?

President Macapagal-Arroyo is departing tonight for a brief visit to the United States to attend the UN General Assembly that seeks to promote a global dialogue on religion, culture and common values.

The President's first stop is Chicago where she is set to meet with the large Filipino community on Nov. 11 and buoy their spirits amid the US recession.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) was silent on whether it was arranging a possible meeting between Ms. Arroyo and US President-elect Obama, whom she had tried—but failed—to personally greet since he won Tuesday's vote.

"We don't know," Foreign Undersecretary Franklin

WILL A11

RP village docs get help online

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE DOCTOR IS ONLINE.

With a laptop, a webcam, an audio headset, and soon with just a cell phone, a specialist based at the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) in Manila can now help rural doctors or health workers save lives in far-flung locations across the country.

The three-year-old "telemedicine" system has allowed, for example, a teenager in Batanes to have his heart infection diagnosed more thoroughly at the PGH without his family taking him on a costly flight to the capital.

His attending physician in Batanes simply e-mailed the patient's case history, X-ray results, etc., and had him sit in front of the webcam for an interview, until the PGH-based specialist could prescribe the right medication.

"We no longer accept geographic limitations [as an excuse] for people not to get basic health services," National Telehealth Center (NTC) director Alvin Marcelo told the Inquirer in a recent interview. "Our vision is to provide telemedicine to remote, underserved areas."

RP VILLAGE A6

Snubs show Barack is no RP friend

ANALYSIS

By Amando Doronila

IN THE FIRST BLUSH OF VICtory, US President-elect Barack Obama accepted congratulations from nine presidents and prime ministers and renewed their calls. President Macapagal-Arroyo, one of the numerous early callers, was not one of the chosen few.

The favored world leaders were Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso, Mexican President Felipe Calderon, South Korean President Lee Myung-bak and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

All are leaders of democracies known as important allies of the United States. Two are Asians—Aso and Lee, one is leader of the centerpiece of US policy in the Middle East, Olmert of Israel, Calderon heads Mexico, the most sensi-

ONLINE A6

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR

A giant Christmas tree is all aglow at the Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City. The tradition of lighting the huge tree well ahead of the Christmas season began in 1981. This year's tree is decked out with Christmas balls bearing Coca-Cola's Smiley logo. INQUIRER.NET/ALDRIN CRUZ

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: Cool with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms. Light to moderate winds coming from the northeast. Temperature: 24 to 31 degrees Celsius; Baguio City, 16 to 23; Metro Manila, 24 to 31; Tagaytay City, 20 to 28; Laoag City, 24 to 32; Tuguegarao City, 23 to 32; Legazpi City, 25 to 32; Iloilo City, 25 to 32; Cebu City, 25 to 32; Tacloban City, 25 to 32; Zamboanga City, 25 to 32; Davao City, 25 to 32; Cagayan de Oro City, 25 to 32; General Santos City, 25 to 32.

Your essay feedback: superior wars cancel gold city campaign to 2207 (Oldest at 283 Down)

Second FRONTPAGE

E-mail: jr_news@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net

2D 13 — 4 11

SUERTRES

1 6 5 — 2 5 2

4 6 8

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

18 33 37 33 38 46

P56,959,272.00

I'm willing to testify, Joc-joc texts pals

ASIA INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS, INC.
Your Best Source of Quality Machines in Asia
TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT 3-DAY Public Auction
NOVEMBER 13, 14 & 15, 2008
NOVEMBER 8, 10, 11 & 12
QUALITY TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT THAT WILL DO THE JOB FOR YOU!
Inquire & Register on-line via: www.asia-intl-auctioneers.com
LOWER MAU CAMP, ARGONAUT #3-WAY, SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE, PHILIPPINES
Tel.: +63-47-252-3333 • Fax: +63-47-252-6848
E-mail: asiainc@subictel.com

United Auctioneers, Inc.
NOVEMBER 26, 27 & 28, 2008
(WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY)
1,200 LOTS ALL MUST GO
SUV's & PASSENGER VAN
INSPECTION DATES: NOVEMBER 22, 24 & 25, 2008
GET A CHANCE TO WIN A NISSAN PRESAGE
KOMATSU D85A-21E

JOCELYN "JOC-JOC" BOLANTE IS sending text messages to friends saying he is willing to attend a Senate hearing on a few days, not on a caprice.

"It's a matter of principle," the former agricultural undersecretary yesterday told close friend Tony Pilapil, who forwarded Bolante's message to the Inquirer.

"I will go to the Senate not to use or protect power. And I want the public to know the Senate is trampling upon my constitutional rights."

Senators will invite a contact today to determine how to proceed in getting Bolante to testify on the fertilizer fund scam, Senate Majority Floor Leader Francis Pangilinan said yesterday.

Bolante was arrested by the Senate sergeant at arms on his return from two years of US detention on Oct. 29.

He fled to the United States in July 2006 after sending a Senate inquiry into allegations he was the brains behind the diversion of P728 million in fertilizer funds to President Macapagal-Arroyo's election campaign in 2004.

Since his arrival in Manila, Bolante has been confined at St. Luke's Medical Center for a physical exam. He has also gone to court questioning the arrest order issued against him in 2005, claiming that it had lapsed and the new Congress had no authority over him.

Blanco said Bolante had been sending text messages to other friends who visited him at St. Luke's, outlining his position on the Senate inquiry.

"I am not evading; a new investigation. I will attend if invited," Bolante said in another text to Blanco.

Bolante told his family went to the Supreme Court but ruled because he "believed the action of the Senate was reactionism and vicious."

"I choose not to be available until the Supreme Court has ruled on my petition," Bolante said. — Philip E. Ditchon, Inquirer Visayas

The new Carrier Zen
Simply Cool.
This new Carrier Zen is the embodiment of function harmonizing with form. It is slim, elegantly silhouetted yet fully equipped with cutting edge cooling technology:
• Higher EER (14.6) means better energy efficiency, lower energy consumption.
• Carbon and electrostatic filters bring about cleaner air.
• Easy to read LCD control panel.
• Easy to use remote control.
• Better air flow and turbo function result in faster, stronger, more powerful cooling efficiency.
Carrier

Storm 'Quinta' could return, says Pagasa

STRONG WINDS ARE POSSIBLE tropical storm "Quinta" back to the Philippine Area of Responsibility" said Nathaniel Cruz, weather bureau chief of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), in a phone interview.

Quinta (international name: Hagupit) was spotted 475 kilometers west of Laoag City with maximum sustained winds of 65 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 100 kph.

Cruz said they would know this morning if Quinta, which is in the South China Sea, will re-enter the Philippines and make a loop west of Luzon before proceeding to Vietnam.

Quinta exited the country yesterday but was quickly followed by Tropical storm "Nelly."

The Pagasa bulletin said Nelly had weakened into a low pressure area and its center was spotted in the vicinity of Coron, Palawan, or 140 kilometers of San Jose, Occidental Mindoro, at around 10 a.m. yesterday.

Vikki Ilacad

TAKE OFF
FOR MORE SHOPPING!

LOWEST POINT-TO-MILE CONVERSION AT ONLY
₱35!

Malaybay Miles MasterCard gets you shopping on a whole new level. Earn FASTER Miles with the lowest point-to-Mile conversion at only P35!*

No other card brings you closer to flying Philippine Airlines – for FREE! Take off and get your own Malaybay Miles Platinum MasterCard today!

ALLIED BANK

VitaSpa:
"It's the best facial I've had!"
-Mindy Weiss-Tantoco

Give your skin a breather. Your skin deserves to be pampered. Stop abusing it with harsh and abrasive products. Let only the purest ingredients and the safest techniques nurture your skin. Mindy Weiss-Tantoco, an advocate of all things organic, swears by Facial Care Centre's VitaSpa facial. "It uses all-natural ingredients, like Vitamins A, C and E which I love," Mindy says. I've tried facials in different spas, salons and facial clinics abroad. None has been as thorough as the VitaSpa. I can attest to that. It's not only the products used, but the process of treating the skin. Anybody can make a good mask or scrub, but how it's applied makes it a whole other story. At Facial Care, I've really pleased with the results!"

The "Spa in a Facial" experience is like having a luxury day out (night) after each session, you'll wake up with the radiant, dewy glow of healthier-looking skin. Call us today for a FREE consultation. Give in to the VitaSpa indulgence!

FREE 2 SKINDULGENCE FACIALS
upon enrollment from Nov. 10-15, 2008 only.

facial care
CENTRE

892-SKIN (7546)

SM MEGA | ORTIGAS | TOMAS MORATO | BINONDO | ALABANG | SM MOA | CONGRESSIONAL | PAMPANGA • TEL. 861-5454 | CEBU • TEL. 253-7501

ATTENTION LAWYERS!

BAR MATTER NO. 1922, requires all lawyers to indicate in their pleadings their MCLE Compliance Number. "Failure to disclose the required information would cause the dismissal of the case and the expunction of the pleadings from the records."

Legis-Forum, Inc.

an accredited MCLE provider, shall conduct its 20TH MCLE SEMINAR (36-unit MCLE course) in Makati City on December 4, 6, 12 & 13, 2008

Php7,800.00 DISCOUNTED Full Course Seminar Fee
for the first 25 participants paying CSI or BEFORE November 14, 2008
DISCOUNTS AWAIT EARLY REGISTRANTS.

Venue is at the TIARA ORIENTAL HOTEL
Malugay corner Gilmar Streets, San Antonio Village, Makati City (at the back of Makati Central Post Office)

FOR INQUIRIES:
Call (02) 896-7840 or 896-8871 or 896-8878 or 896-8880
Call or Text: 0921-8318888 or 0922-8487111
FAX Nos.: (02) 896-8888 or 896-2888
Or you may log on to: www.legisforum.com
and register on-LINE

Legis-Forum, Inc.
4th floor Chatham House, 116 Valero corner
V.A. Rufino Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City

Boracay resort operator seeks respite from court

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

KALIBO CITY—AN ALTERNATIVE resort operator on Boracay Island has ordered to an ownership dispute over a piece of property is seeking court intervention to break the impasse.

Greg Hutchinson, operator of the resort Sand Castles Resort, today will ask the Kalibo Regional Trial Court to enforce a status quo order issued by the court allowing him to take possession of the property until the court resolves pending petitions of the parties involved in the dispute.

"We will ask the court to intervene so that the orders can not be ordered to leave the property," Hutchinson's lawyer Oscar Tag-amolila told the Inquirer in a telephone interview yesterday.

Armed security guards hired by the owner of the lot, Editha Mores, and Evangeline Dalisa, a former substitute of Hutchinson's, arrested the resort Wednesday night claiming legal control over the property.

They claimed Hutchinson had refused to leave the resort despite the termination of their lease agreement.

Hutchinson, his wife Vivien and their 3-year-old twin children have been holed up in their third floor apartment inside the resort since the takeover.

He said his family was being held against its will but this was refuted by police and the resort.

Police have disarmed and removed the security guards. At least eight policemen have been deployed to the property, according to Supt. Arnold Arcadios, chief of the Boracay Special Tourist Police Office (BSTPO).

Mores and Dalisa have been allowed to enter the property.

Tagamolila said Judge Lobelia Legaspina-Bilheta of Kalibo RTC Branch 6 issued an order in November last year allowing his client continued possession of the property until the court resolves a petition for the issuance of an injunction and temporary restraining order.

Hutchinson filed the petition to block the termination of his lease with Mores.

Hutchinson entered into a 20-year lease with Mores in 1999 and extended it by 10 years until 2019.

Mores, however, claimed the contract allegedly violations and breach of agreement on Hutchinson's part.

Wednesday's takeover was legal, according to Mores in an earlier telephone interview.

But Tagamolila said the takeover violated the court order.

"My client was in possession of the property at the time of the takeover. They need a court order to do that, which they didn't have," he said.

He added that even assuming that Mores was the rightful owner and occupant, "they should not have taken the law into their hands. It's only court sheriffs assisted by policemen who can enforce any occupation."

FACTORY SALE

Shakespeare Pocket 100 cu.
Shakespeare Bar 170 cm
Shakespeare Cupid 170 cm

2 912-55-11
2 0922-8081804

All Sizes Available for Billing, Can Also Be Delivered to Your Home / Office

28 Years

Guthrie Jensen
CONSULTANTS TO MANAGEMENT
SHARPER SKILLS EASIER RESULTS

PROACTIVE CUSTOMER SERVICE

December 2 – 4, 2008
Mandarin Oriental Hotel

This program is for sales and service personnel, customer service representatives, account officers, technical officers, receptionists, secretaries and other frontliners who deal with customers daily and would like to know how best to respond to their needs.

Do you want to know the path to profit?

Your company's customer friendliness is something for your customers to decide, make sure you give them the right impression by trying the foundations for excellent and profitable customer service. Elevate your company above competition by showing customers that you care. With Proactive Customer Service you will:

- Transform "normal" customer transactions into outstanding ones
- Tune in into all the needs of the customer
- Ask questions that show the customer that you care
- Respond efficiently, courteously and professionally to the customer's needs
- Constantly provide the "personal touch" and go the extra mile to make customers come back for more
- Discover the techniques that make service possible
- Develop a sense of pride, confidence and enthusiasm that will surely rub off on the customer
- Know what gets and keeps customers

PROBLEM SOLVING AND DECISION MAKING

December 2 – 4, 2008
EDSA Shangri-La Hotel

This program is for supervisors and managers who wish to improve their problem solving and decision making skills.

Do you want to troubleshoot with confidence?

Leadership is about taking control of situations that arise. Learn about the nature of problem solving and patterns of thinking. Assess your options, make rational choices, and address potential threats. With Problem Solving and Decision Making, you will:

- Face problems and make decisions with renewed confidence
- Reinforce your authority and credibility with proven problem solving and decision making techniques
- Analyze situations more comprehensively to arrive at the best solution
- Anticipate potential problems, assess risks, and weigh alternatives to come up with the best decisions
- Tackle problems more systematically and logically
- Harness support mechanisms that will give rise to better solutions and decisions
- Communicate decisions to team members to reinforce your power, authority and credibility
- Constantly implement and follow through on decisions
- Overcome obstacles and resistance to "unpopular" decisions

EFFECTIVE PROJECT MANAGEMENT

December 9 – 11, 2008
Makati Shangri-La Hotel

This program is for team leaders, Project Managers, Project Engineers, Project Architects, Officers in Charge, Managers and other people who want to develop their project management skills.

Do your projects have impact and lasting effects?

Managing projects and project teams requires more than just "common sense" management. Learn the project management framework and learn to success stories. Determine the critical path to take to avoid project delays and problems, derive costs, assemble a project team, and motivate your team for peak performance. With Effective Project Management, you will:

- Understand what makes projects and project management work
- Explore the four essential steps in project management
- Prepare a project charter that points the way to success
- Create a project plan aimed at successful completion
- Develop project budgets with ease
- Organize a project team that will deliver results
- Lead project teams effectively
- Ensure success of project teams
- Learn different ways of project closure

Date

November 25 - 27, 2008

December 2 - 4, 2008

December 9 - 11, 2008

Other Public Seminar Offerings:

- Interpersonal Communication Skills
- Managing People for Service Excellence
- Operational Planning
- People Handling Skills
- Negotiating Successfully
- Strategic Marketing
- Managing Work Attitudes
- Effective Business Writing
- Sales Management
- Communication Assertiveness

For inquiries and reservations call:
Caroline, Diane, Li, or Rosa at 892-7559, 894-6465, or 892-3041
or visit www.guthriejensen.com
4th floor ACE Building, 131-133 Roxas cor. Dela Rosa Streets, Legaspi Village, Makati City

Quintos kin ask SC to reverse acquittal

By Norman Bordadora

THE QUINTOS FAMILY HAS gone to the Supreme Court seeking the reversal of a Court of Appeals decision early this year acquitting former Bicolandia Minister Rep. Jose Villarosa in the murders of brothers Michael and Fred Quintos more than a decade ago.

Ricardo Quintos said the appellate court overstepped its abuse of discretion when, among other things, it ignored evidence that proved Villarosa was the mastermind of the killing of his sons.

Quintos, a political rival of Villarosa's and himself a former Camarines Sur congressman, said the CA also ignored evidence that established conspiracy between Villarosa and his fellow acquitted and the actual assassins whose guilt the appellate court upheld.

Quintos also assailed the screening ineffectiveness of Presidential Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, who recommended in 2001 that Villarosa's case not be released on recognizance.

He said the President's close ties to Villarosa's wife, Deputy Speaker Arnulfo Villarosa, may have also played a role in the subsequent granting of the recognizance in 2006 that Villarosa be acquitted.

The solicitor general at the time was Eduardo Nachura, now a Supreme Court justice.

"The collective evidence in this case forms a chain of circumstances that directly point to Villarosa as the murderous mastermind," said Quintos in the petition for certiorari he filed in behalf of his sons heirs of Michael and Fred.

"This collective chain of evidence includes the incriminating confessions of (convicted killers) Arnold Bermas and Gerardo Dalmanes as well as other direct, positive and circumstantial evidence on record," he said.

The CA in a decision rendered on March 10, 2008, upheld the Quezon City Regional Trial Court's conviction of Bermas, Marcelito Maninzo and Jose Ungpad in the shooting deaths of the Quintos brothers on Dec. 13, 1997.

However, Maninzo and Ungpad were identified as those did the actual shooting.

Ordered were their alleged accomplishers Villarosa, Mario Tolentino, Delfin Bautista and Ruben Balgoa.

Fatoras, who are accused much less was tried separately. His confession was essentially the same as Bermas's, according to Quintos, in which he said Villarosa had presided over a meeting of the conspirators in Kalalake.

He said Bermas had testified he heard Villarosa over two-way radio on the night of the murders asking members whether they have the killing went.

Villarosa's alibi was that he was at the House of Representatives in Quezon City at the time of the supposed meeting.

"The Court of Appeals retained Villarosa's alibi on the ground his presence At the House was duly recorded in the records of Congress," Quintos said.

But, he said, it was not impossible for Villarosa to have been in Malabon and Quezon City on the same day.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, November 10, 2008
32nd Week in Ordinary Time
Leo the Great

1st Reading: Ti 1:1-9
Gospel: Lk 17:1-6

Jesus said to his disciples, "Scandals will necessarily come, but woe to anyone through whom they come! It would be better for him to be cast into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck. Truly this would be better for that person than to cause one of these little ones to fall.

"Be careful. If your brother offends you, rebuke him; and if he is sorry, forgive him. And if he offends you seven times in a day but seven times returns to you saying, 'I'm sorry,' forgive him."

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." And the Lord said, "If you have faith even the size of a mustard seed, you may say to this tree: 'Be uprooted and plant yourself in the sea,' and it will obey you."

Commentary:

The word scandal is from the Greek word that means stumbling block. Jesus warns us to watch so those who cause others to stumble and lose progress along the road to eternal life.

Nothing in progress can cause others to stumble. Our Lord has been so generous in shedding His blood so that our sins will be forgiven, yet we sometimes cling to the most petty of grudges. This should not be so for a follower of Jesus, for we should quickly and repeatedly extend mercy and forgiveness to those who have trespassed against us.

German Communications Foundation Inc. © Adapted by Fr. Clifford Stevens, Executive Director, CFM, P.O. Box 41, Notre Dame, IN 46556. (800) 932-2336 ext. 3. Fax: (574) 631-6316. E-mail: cfm@cfmnd.org. Website: http://www.catholicdoctrine.com. Catholic Information Network (CIN) http://www.catholicity.com/cin/ Permission is granted to reproduce this material in its entirety without changes. Contact Fr. Joel Aquino [MIC, Cpntr. Chpln. Queen City Council Supreme] for more information. E-mail: [illegible]

Nograles to rush impeach case

SPEAKER PROSPERO NOGRALES WANTS to speed the impeachment complaint filed against President Macapagal Arroyo through the House of Representatives by endorsing it today as soon as Congress reopens without waiting for the 10-day period provided for by the rules to lapse.

"I have instructed the justice committee to act swiftly but judiciously... I won't allow the impeachment to be divisive or used in the way of scheduled legislative agenda," he said in a statement.

The complaint was filed by a group led by businessman Jose de Venecia III.

The justice committee has 60 session days to act on the complaint.

Nograles said the House hoped to act on at least 102 bills from now up to Dec. 20 when Congress goes on its Christmas break.

DEC. Calbay.ang.ca.ph

YOUR CAREER STARTS HERE!!!
Get CERTIFIED with CISCO (CCNA) & MICROSOFT (MCP)
TESDA Accredited
COMPUTER NETWORKING CAREER ACHIEVING CENTER, INC.

DRAGON FIREWORKS
WELCOME DEALER
Free Delivery
MAJOR CREDIT CARD ACCEPTED

Experience the hottest R&B Duo as they hit Manila!
RIHANNA AND CHRIS BROWN
LIVE IN TAGUIG CONCERT
Globe PLANS
Subscribe to Globe's hottest plans and get unlimited text*, up to 3 Silver tickets, and a Samsung handset for FREE!

WORLD CLASS SLIMMING, FITNESS, FACE AND SKIN BY
SLIMMERS WORLD
"How I lost 20 lbs. and gained a Bikini Body!"
HAVE FUN, MAKE FRIENDS WHILE YOU LOSE WEIGHT!!!
BUY 1 MONTH GET 1 MONTH FREE!!!
NO MONTHLY DUES! ON LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP.
CREDIT CARD OPTIONS AT 0%.
MEDICAL SUPERVISION AT ALL CENTERS.
NO JOINING FEES!
PLUS!
PERSONAL TRAINING AND ALL THE LATEST AEROBICS!
BUY 15 TREATMENTS GET 15 FREE!!!
MESO WHITE ' MESO REJUVENATION
COSMETIC FILLERS '
NUTRACELL-FACE '
WART REMOVAL ' LASER ACNE TREATMENT ' PERMANENT LASER HAIR REMOVAL ' FACIAL ' SKIN WHITENING'
CALL OUR ONE - STOP SUPER CENTERS FOR FITNESS, SKIN, BODY AND FACE.
FITNESS HOTLINE: 536-3333
SKIN HOTLINE: 525-8771
MOBILE NUMBER: 091- SLIMMERS (75466377)
www.slimmersworld.com.ph * inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

RP village doctors get help online

Front page A1

The NTC housed in the University of the Philippines-PGH has been providing the service since 2005.

A doctor in a remote area with Internet access can send a query through the center's website telehealth.upm.edu.ph/ftw. Two nurses who man the system six to eight hours a day—or longer during calamities—can either address the query themselves or refer it to a specialist.

Information exchange could be done through the website if doctors' computer is needed, the specialist can reach the doctor seeking advice using the software Skype.

If a "video call" is necessary for the PGH doctor to see the patient, the center runs three computers simultaneously—a laptop equipped with a web-cam, a second computer where the specialist can access a medical database (e.g., hospitals near the patient's location), and a third where the patient's test results and other information can be downloaded.

The center maintains a regular pool of around 10 specialists from the UPMGH who offer their time and expertise via telemedicine services for free, Marcelo said.

"They feel that they are able to help even beyond their physical limitations. They get to learn about the situation in remote areas, about the conditions there," he added.

Simpler beginnings

The NTC actually started operations in 1998 with a much simpler objective. To use a website where the public can get reliable health information.

But after undergoing training in the United States and United Kingdom, the project proponents decided to expand their services and tap the Internet to "facilitate interaction between remote doctors and PGH doctors."

Using government funds, the telemedicine system was set up, establishing links between the center and facilities in Cagayan, Leyte, Cavite and Lanao Del Norte. The NTC then distributed laptops to these areas, which included municipal colleges, government hospitals and provincial health offices.

During its first two years, however, the results were not that encouraging. The center hardly got any referrals from the remote locations. In hindsight, Marcelo surmised that while technology had made telemedicine possible, it still needed a champion "to galvanize and start" to really work.

It turned out that the selected pilot areas had doctors, mostly general practitioners, who saw little need to go online since they could already refer their patients to specialists based in nearby provinces.

'Telepsychiatry'

The center later networked with the Department of Health's "Doctor to the Barrios" program. This time around, the center found young doctors who were deployed in very remote areas and "yearning for somebody to consult," Marcelo recalled.

Since then, the NTC has been receiving an average of seven queries a day, most of which are answered within 24 hours, Marcelo said.

Without telemedicine, the family of the afflicted teenager in Batanes, for instance, would have been forced to spend nearly five travel and lodging days in Manila, and then wait in line at the PGH possibly for hours—all just for an initial consultation.

Talking online to the Batanes-based doctor, a PGH surgeon then prescribed intravenous medication for the teenager. Only after several days, when the patient was deemed ready for surgery, was he finally brought to Manila.

The system has also been used to help health workers look after transported typhoon victims in the flood regions. Marcelo referred to this special intervention as "telepsychiatry."

Tests from all over

But what if barrio doctors who want to avail themselves of the NTC services don't have Internet access to begin with?

Since 2007, the center has been accepting referrals also through text messages. Its computer system receives the messages and forwards them to the cell phone of the appropriate specialist. Texted referrals alone have accounted for some 700 queries since October last year.

The center has since been getting test referrals from remote villages and islands in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, Davao del Sur, Bilwa, Cagayan, Quezon, Iligan, Bohol, Aklan, Bontoc, Batanes, Negros Occidental, Cebu, Masbate, Iloilo, Siargao, Leyte Del Sur, Lanao Del Sur, Catanduanes, Bukidnon, Surigao Del Norte, Surigao Del Sur, Tandaguing Del Norte and Tawi-Tawi.

"It has been a big help to me and to my patients," said Cherilyn Zaldan, a doctor who serves more than 6,500 villagers in Aliaga town, Nueva Ecija.

"The right information [I need] is now just one click of the mouse or one text message away," said Zaldan, who has been assigned for almost two years now to a village where the nearest hospital employing a specialist is two hours away.

A baby and a storm

Zaldan admitted that, being a general practitioner, she would sometimes need assistance from specialists. Once, she needed advice for a patient suffering from a large mass lipoma. Thanks to a series of e-mailed consultations with a specialist at the UP-PGH, the patient received the correct diagnosis.

Alexandra Bello Bernal, one of the nurses manning the center, recalled receiving a text from a village doctor in Leyte months ago about a 3-day old infant suffering from blood infection and nursing a fever. The nearest hospital can only be reached by boat—and there was a storm, the message said.

The text message was immediately forwarded to Marcelo, who then planned the doctor in Leyte. Within minutes, it was decided that the baby should be given antibiotics, not orally but through intravenous therapy.

Important for islands

Bernal said nothing could still replace face-to-face patient care, but knowing that she could help handle emergencies and lend free online could be so fulfilling. "This is very important especially here in the Philippines because we have so many islands."

Marcelo said the center had begun tapping video-conferencing also as a training tool for health workers. Through video, health workers, midwives or nurses gathered in Cebu, for instance, can direct their questions to resource speakers in Manila.

The center will soon upgrade its system with a software being developed by the UP College of Engineering. Eventually, medical information, a wider range of data such as blood pressure, body temperature, and electrocardiograph (ECG) results, he said.

Shopping for treats.

Being treated like royalty.

Shop this Christmas season using your Citi card and join Citibank's Royal Treat Promotion.

Every P1,000 single-receipt purchase with your Citi card gives you a chance to win a once-in-a-lifetime shopping experience in London, and more. You can also opt for instant rewards and earn up to 3x Rewards Points. Text CITI to 2600 or visit www.citibank.com.ph

Promotion period is from October 25, 2008 to January 31, 2009. Don't have a Citi card? Call 423 3000.

Prize includes:				
One week stay for two at one of the most luxurious boutique hotels at Bonline Arch	Tour of fashionable Oxford Street	£100,000 shopping money with VIP assistance at Marks & Spencer	Exclusive preview of the 2009 Marks & Spencer collection	Limousine tour to take you around Westminster landmarks, Knightsbridge and Notting Hill

Exclusive Midnight Sale for Citi cardholders

Shop at the Tax Haven

Green Light Sale on November 12, 2008 and get up to 70% off!

Tax Haven Sale is until November 16, 2008.

Citi never sleeps®

citi

Snubs show Barack is no RP friend

From page A1

gic US neighbor in Latin America; and the one are leaders of Europe's most important democracies.

Their talks ranged over a number of issues indicating the priorities of Obama as he moved swiftly to revamp the focus of US foreign policy including the global financial crisis, the Afghanistan war, and the North Korean and Iranian nuclear crisis.

Sarkozy's office said he and Obama spoke for 30 minutes, characterized as "extremely warm," as they discussed the financial crisis and agreed to meet in the "quite near future." It said they spoke about an international financial summit in Washington.

A second round of calls to world leaders quickly followed as Saturday wore Obama spoke with Chinese President Hu Jintao, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, Polish President Lech Kaczynski and Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.

After this second round, Mr Arroyo was pushed back on the queue of the waiting list. Wednesday has been waiting in vain for a return call. Hours, at the time of this writing, had been received.

Not on radar screen

These telephone chats were the first few days gave a first glimpse into the "world view" of the incoming administration - the concerns that surround us it, the countries Obama have downgraded and the issues that concern it most as he redefines US foreign policy to the post-Bush era.

From the looks of it, the Philippines is not on the Obama radar screen, no matter how our beautiful beaches on the waiting list claim our strategic importance is to the United States in the Asia-Pacific region and our historic ties with Washington.

Obama has barely a couple of years experience as junior senator from Illinois and has only scratching acquaintance with foreign policy. It's very likely the Philippines-as-such him as just a speck on the map.

And so, if his team received an early call from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo congratulating him for his victories, one of his lieutenants would have asked: "Where is the Philippines?"

Notorious presidents take seriously countries whose leaders create trouble for the United States and who assail its authority as the lone superpower after the collapse of communism in the 1990s. They scorn obscure vassal poor countries although they may have historical special relations with the United States.

Take Sarkozy. Amid the financial crisis of Wall Street in October, Sarkozy seized the Wall Street turmoil as an opening wedge to revamp the free-enterprise US model along the lines of the more dominant style of France. This has been seen in Washington as a revival of neo-Gaullism in France challenging the American model of capitalism.

The Canadian prime minister's office said Obama and Harper congratulated there could be no closer friends and allies than the United States and Canada and vowed to work closely on their relationship.

President Calderon's office said Obama pledged continued US support for Mexico's fight against organized crime and drug trafficking. The office of Olmert said he and Obama "discussed the need to continue and advance the peace process, while maintaining Israel's security." Australia Prime Minister Rudd said he and Obama talked about national security and climate change.

Constructive interaction

In his conversation with Lee, Obama said the US-South Korean alliance was a "cornerstone" of Asia's peace and stability and promised improved relations between the two countries.

In the second round of telephone talks, Obama told Russian President Medvedev "expressed the determination to create constructive interaction for the good of global stability" and agreed their countries had common responsibility to address "serious problems of global nature."

But Medvedev, after Obama's election, Medvedev threatened to move short-range missiles to Russia's borders with Nato allies, including Poland and the Czech Republic.

Obama's talk with Chirac's the covered a range of issues, including the global financial turmoil and the sensitive issue of Taiwan. China opposes independence for Taiwan, saying that the proper handling of the issue was the key to good relations between Beijing and Washington.

'Fairer' Middle East policy

In his first foreign policy pronouncement as president-elect, Obama called for an international effort to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon. The pronouncement came a day after Iran President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad urged Obama to implement a "fairer" policy in the Middle East.

Ahmadinejad congratulated Obama on his election—the first time an Iranian leader had offered such wishes to a US president-elect since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Obama acknowledged the letter, but said Iran's development of nuclear weapons was "unacceptable" and Iran must end its "support of terrorist organizations."

By contrast, the Philippines encountered a frosty reception from the incoming administration. Ms Arroyo got in a call to Obama at 2:3 a.m. to congratulate him, and Obama did not receive her call.

Instead, US Ambassador Kristie Kenney offered an explanation that failed to reach the mark. In Iloilo City, Kenney said Obama was "a fan of the Philippines," and she expected the two countries to have "extraordinarily good relations" during the Obama presidency.

Kenney said she did not foresee any major changes in the security relations with the Philippines, where US Special Forces are training Filipino troops to fighting Moro rebels linked to Osama bin Laden's terror network in Southeast Asia.

RP not in charmed circle

Kenney said the Philippines would continue to be a "strong ally" of the United States, and acknowledged that the Philippines increasingly had a "great regional role to play."

She said that when President Macapagal-Arroyo put in a call to Obama, his team told her that the President's call was one of "the first and most gracious calls," and they were taking down names and numbers and they would "call back when they get a chance."

They never did.

Kenney said it was not likely that Ms Arroyo would be able to meet Obama when she goes to the United States next week to attend a UN function.

"I think [an Obama-Arroyo] meeting is unlikely because the president-elect, as I understand it, is not yet meeting with foreign leaders. He is busy assembling his Cabinet," the US ambassador said.

The sidelining of the Arroyo call gave a glimpse of the importance of the Philippines to the United States as a moment of change of administration.

It is clear that the Philippines stands on the outer perimeter of US concerns in world affairs.

The Bush telephone conversations reveal the Philippines is not within the charmed circles of the Obama administration. It is a hyper outside looking in.

It is imperative that Manila should reassess its priorities vis-à-vis Washington. Obama is not our friend.

GE
Water and Process Technologies

Soften the blow of your hard water at home.

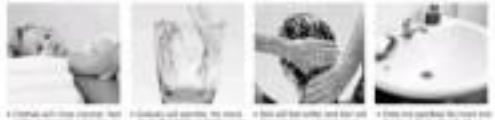
Hard water can be a real hassle in your household. Mineral and scale deposits build up on everything hard water touches.

This gives your homes different problems like clogged pipes, rust stains on sinks, spotted glassware and dishes, and mineral deposits in the faucets. It also makes bath towels and clothing fabrics stingy. The efficiency of water related appliances are adversely affected and bowels down in the long run. All these mean spending more on cleaning detergents and wasting a lot of electricity.

But now, you can say goodbye to your problems with General Electric's Autotrol Water Softener System. This product is specifically designed to get rid of the undesirable minerals that do harm to your household.

The Autotrol Water Softener System is equipped with a "Smart Technology" electronic controller that can learn usage pattern for increased efficiency. Its easy-to-program system makes operation a breeze. It also utilizes a specially designed top-of-the-line valve, so you can be sure it's tough and can withstand extended use. And thanks to its 12-volt operation system, it's easy and safe to use.

So do away with your hard water problems completely. Get a GE Autotrol Water Softener System today.



Autotrol™ Water Softener with fully automatic Logix™ Controller, Autotrol™ valve, and Polyethylene Vessel

GE imagination at work

mobile news

Guide out on kids' coverage by media

By Nikko Dizon

THE GOVERNMENT'S special committee for the Protection of Children has launched revised guidelines for media reporting and coverage of children's cases.

"Children need special safeguards and care due to their size, vulnerability and young age," says the nine-page guide, citing the state's policy on the protection of children.

Those who need "special protection" are children who are victims of abuse and those in conflict with the law, the guide says.

"They need to be shielded from inappropriate media coverage and unwarranted publicity. The reporting of their cases should be done in a manner that would promote their best interest," it says.

According to Justice Undersecretary Lucas Bersamin, chair of the Special Committee on the Protection of Children, the justice department can initiate complaints against media organizations who violate provisions in the guidelines.

The guidelines were first formulated in 2000 using the country's laws as legal basis to protect children's rights to privacy, dignity and to be heard.

In the revised guidelines, journalists are reminded that children who are victims of abuse, witnesses, or involved in armed conflict and to conflict with the law should be interviewed only in the presence of a parent, legal guardian or social worker known to the child.

"The media practitioner should take into consideration the level of comfort of the child when asking questions and the length of time spent in the interview. This is to prevent the child from further traumatization or victimization," according to the guide.

The guide also reminds media of confidentiality provisions when it comes to the child's records, as well as materials and other evidence recovered from a crime scene or in a rescue operation that would limit part of police, prosecution or court records.

The identities of these children cannot be disclosed "whether directly or indirectly."

The media draft not be allowed to print or broadcast any information, not even photographs of the child's family, that would lead to their identification, and disallows the publication or broadcast of their photographs as video footage if these would easily identify them.

"There should be a conscious effort to avoid sensationalism and exploitation of the child in most of any undertaken. The release of the child's identity to elicit financial support or aid for the child's medical care is strongly discouraged," the guide says.

The only exception to this provision is where missing children are looking for their parents or relatives, or in cases "where revealing [their identity] is for the best interest of the child."

Graft fight gains

THE PRESIDENTIAL Anti-Graft Commission has taken its anti-corruption campaign to nine regions covering at least 81 local government units, according to Secretary Constancio de Guzman, PAGC chair.

"The campaign reaches out to reach out to the different regions, conducting workshops and rendering technical assistance to regional and local officials on the various aspects of the Ang Tanggapang Development Action Plan[1] and how they can implement it," De Guzman said in a statement.

She said the campaign began in March in Kidapawan City before going on to Legaspi City, Davao, Cotabato Valley, northern Mindanao, Cebu City, Clark in Pampanga, Batanes City and Zamboanga City.

The kick-off session of 23 anti-corruption measures under four major areas of implementation – prevention, education, investigation and enforcement – disseminated, and strategic partnerships, she said.

De Guzman said the PAGC also is rewarding out to the regional offices and LGUs to measure the effects of corruption on economic and cultural development in the provinces.

2 kids among 4 killed by rebs

KORONADAL CITY — FOUR PEOPLE, including two children, were killed in separate attacks by suspected Moro rebels in central Mindanao over the weekend, officials said yesterday.

Garrison believed to be Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels ambushed a private contractor at 8 a.m. yesterday near the town of Pikit.

Those dead—Jessie Sarabiano and Nathaniel Ushag II, and Shiela Mata, 10, were killed in the incident.

Five other civilians were hurt—Rafael Ungkiya, 18; Cristina Mama, 10; Emma Mama, 15; Marcelo Bob, 18; and Longberg Jaimol, 9, all residents of Brong.

Gen. Jesus Dureza said Task Force Central Commander Lt. Gen. Raymundo Ferrer has ordered the pursuit of the perpetrators.

Dureza said the two were brought to the village of Datumanggas where they were shot with M-14 and M-16 rifles.

"The rebels thought (Rhoda and Shiela) were informers," Aguilar said.

Bai Rohada, MILF civil-military affairs chief, denied the group's involvement in the ambush in Pikit, saying it could have been part of a land conflict between warring families.

"We are conducting our own investigation about the incident in Datu Piang. Accordingly, there were no military assets killed by Commander Tabao," he said. — Anthony Medrano, Inquirer Mindanao and AFP

ALL IN, NO HIDDEN CHARGES

BANGKOK $55
HONGKONG
SINGAPORE
MACAU
SEOUL
SHANGHAI
BEIJING
AMKOR TRAVEL & TOURS INC.

MCLE FOR LAWYERS
29th MCLE – November 26, 28, 27 & 28, 2008
29th MCLE – December 5, 9, 10 & 11, 2008

MuLAN TRAVEL SERVICE CORP.
2008 LUXURY TOURS

CORPORATE AND INCENTIVE TOURS
6D/5N SEOUL MY SOUL/PYONGYANG DETOUR
5D PATTAYA-BANGKOK TOUR
7D MALAYSIA TOUR
8D JAPAN TOUR

WINTER in CHINA

Happy Sun Travel & Tours
Tel: (632) 400-0801; 400-0803
523-0891; 521-3554

WOW guy $99

PANDA TRAVEL SERVICE INC.

Hey,
how do I setup a great office with small budget
Easy
Check out Panasonic's Office-in-a-Box - all you need for P15,000 only
Office-in-a-Box 10-in-1
One complete package to boost your office productivity
Panasonic

RAKSO TRAVEL
(02) 812-9667
Korea Winter Ski
Japan Escapade
Ashikbayan Promo!!!
KOREA
ASIA
OCEANIA
U.S. / EUROPE
FARES
www.RAKSOTRAVEL.com

Ombudsman clears Iloilo, Surigao govs

THE OFFICE OF THE Ombudsman has dismissed a graft complaint filed against Iloilo Gov. Neil Tupas Sr., Surigao del Norte Gov. Robert Ace Barbers and other officials for lack of merit.

Tupas and other Iloilo officials were charged by People's Graftwatch of Iloilo Inc. on Dec. 27, 2007, with violating Republic Act No. 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

Charged with Tupas were provincial administrator Manuel F. Mejorada, budget officer Elena B. Lim, Jerry Buenaventura and acting budget officer Jesus Rosario Jr. Tupas is the incumbent governor.

People's Graftwatch claimed Mejorada's term was coterminous with the previous governor, but he continued to perform his duties even after the governor's second term had ended.

But Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez cited an opinion of the Department of Interior and Local Government which said coterminous employees "are allowed to stay in office in holdover capacity for as long as no new appointment is said coterminous office by the present authority is made or the duties are advised not to report for work anymore."

Barbers, along with former Budget chief Wenie Ilore Robert Lyndon S. Barbers, was charged with violating RA 3019 by Hans R. Magdala, former treasury management officer II in the Surigao del Norte provincial government, claiming he was arbitrarily reassigned to another post.

Gutierrez ruled there was no sufficient evidence to "engender a well-founded belief that the respondents are probably guilty" of the crime charged.

Alexis Romero

214 old bombs dug up

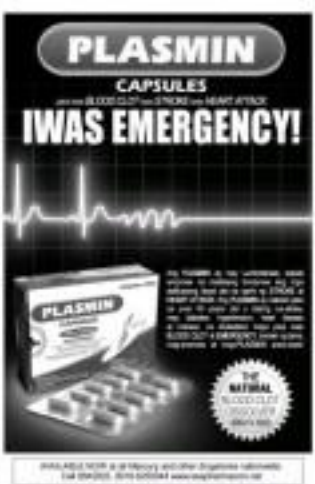
BAGAC, BATAAN—Police and a bomb disposal team dug up 214 vintage bombs and three sacks of explosive powder in a lot in Barangay Sta. Maria here yesterday.

Supt. Ceo Abenoja, town police chief, said Lot owner Wenceslao Abenoja reported having metal while digging a compost pit in his yard the day before.

Abenoja said he heard the vintage bombs 10 to 12 feet below the surface.

"My guesses went to tell us this area was a Japanese camp during World War II," Abenoja said.

The Regional Bomb Squad Barangay took the bombs and explosive powder to the Barangay Provincial Police Office. Marvin Iriña Lozaña, Inquirer Southern Luzon

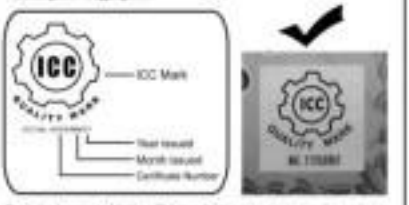


dti
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

BABALA SA PAGBILI NG CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Inaatasha ng Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) ang publiko na bumili lamang ng sertipikadong Christmas lights.

Bumili lamang ng Christmas lights na may Import Commodity Clearance (ICC) na nakasulat mula taong 2007 hanggang 2008.



Dapat ring tiyakin sa labels ng Christmas lights ang mga sumusunod: pangalan ng importer/manufacturer/distributor; address at trademark; rated voltage at rated wattage; rating ng insulation material; at paalala sa tamang paggamit.

Huwag sa mga insulators na basag ang mga Christmas lights na nagsasaad ng ICC certificates 2008 pataas sa DTI Bureau of Product Standards upang maiwasan ang pagkuha at makagamit ng pekeng ICC certificate para makasalan ang walang kaalaman dito ng DTI.

Sinumang magpapakalat ng pekeng ICC certificate para sa mga Christmas lights ay maaaring maparusahan ng administrative penalties sa ilalim ng Republic Act 7394 o Consumer Act of the Philippines.

Para sa karagdagang impormasyon tungkol sa Christmas lights o upang mag-report ng mga kinahinat na magbebenta ng Christmas lights na walang ICC mark o pawid pa noong 2008 pataas, tumawag sa DTI Direct 751-3330.

The most read Golf magazine in the Philippines
Call the Advertising Team

Will GMA meet Obama this time?

From page A1

Ebdalin replied when asked if the DFA was scheduling an Obama-Arroyo meeting, particularly during the Chicago leg of the trip.

Chicago is Obama's hometown, but Ms Arroyo's itinerary doesn't include a meeting with the US president-elect, according to Press Secretary Jesse Dureza.

Ms Arroyo would then fly to New York and join world leaders at the UN Investment Conference on the Financing of Development on Nov. 12 and 13. The United Nations has now institutions to 192 member states as the high-level meeting.

Ms Arroyo will deliver a speech on the value of interfaith dialogues and relate the country's progress from employing such a tack vis-à-vis the secessionist rebels in Mindanao.

"The interfaith dialogue is what the Philippines has been pursuing on the ground, especially in Mindanao, before it became an international item of interest," Dureza said.

The meeting is a follow-up to the July interfaith conference in Madrid initiated by Saudi King Abdullah and King Juan Carlos of Spain that gathered delegates of various faiths and religions.

'Obligatory trip'

"The Saudi king asked for the presence of the President," Dureza said, pointing out that this was one of the "obligatory trips" that Ms Arroyo had to make out of an "international commitment."

The Middle East is host to hundreds of thousands of expatriate Filipino workers, and is helping in the peace process in Mindanao.

Ms Arroyo is set to fly back to Manila on Nov. 13.

The Presidency embarked on a 10-day working visit to the United States in June. She scrapped a second trip set from Sept. 21 to 26 after fighting broke out between government forces and secessionist rebels following the scuttling of a deal to expand the Bangsamoro territory in Mindanao.

Dureza said Ms Arroyo would probably stay in Chicago for only about an hour to meet with members of the Filipino community.

Soon after Obama's historic victory over Republican Sen. John McCain was announced by the US media on Tuesday, Ms Arroyo promptly called the triumphant Democrat.

Too busy to take GMA call

But Malacañang said Ms Arroyo failed to reach Obama who was probably still too busy to accommodate calls from world leaders then. It was around 12 a.m. in Chicago when Ms Arroyo placed the call at the state department.

Ms Arroyo reportedly tried to contact Obama again the following day, but with similar result.

In an interview over dzRB yesterday, Dureza said he was not aware if Ms Arroyo had finally reached Obama, whom she had also failed to meet during her working visit to the United States in June.

In a text message, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Ms Arroyo was "confident that the incoming presidency of US President-elect Barack Obama will hold much promise in ushering in an era of enhanced relations between the Philippines and the United States."

She got a letter instead

Ermita cited portions of the June 24 letter by Obama to Ms Arroyo in which the new US president "outlined issues and concerns he collaborates ... hinged on a 'partnership that makes progress on 21st century challenges.'"

Such issues included "climate change, food security, poverty reduction, the future of the [Association of Southeast Asian Nations], human rights in Burma, and violence reform."

Ermita said Obama had also noted the two countries' "shared history and the Philippines' role as Asia's first democracy" while highlighting "the Philippines' special bond with the United States."

"This bond is enriched by a vibrant and successful Filipino-American community that has made such enormous contributions to our country (the US)," he quoted Obama as writing.

I ♥ STIEBEL High Quality Water Heaters
MULTI-POINT SHOWER UNIT AEROLIFT NEW
High Quality Water Filters
DEXTERTON

HK investors slam Boracay 'land grab'

From page A1

among the world's best beaches.

The island has become a magnet for investors, including foreigners, seeking to cash in on the tens of thousands of visitors.

Among the biggest investments in Boracay are the Banyan and Blue Waters, and Shangri-La's Boracay Resort & Spa, which is set to open by the end of 2008. The Shangri-La project alone is worth P1 billion, according to the Department of Tourism.

"This is an international issue because there are so many foreigners interested in Boracay. The Philippines does not want a reputation for being a place where property rights are not respected," Amores said.

The move by Amores's group comes as residents are increasingly concerned about the growing level of lawlessness on the island, which draws half a million tourists each year to its spectacular beaches, more than one-sixth of tourist visitors to the Philippines.

Last week, armed men forced their way into one of the island's resorts, holding the Australian owner and his family captive amid a property dispute, the owner said.

Abide by Philippine laws

The group of Hong Kong property investors is in for a rough fight.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday said foreign investors should abide by the Supreme Court decision declaring Boracay Island public domain.

"That's basic (the Supreme Court decided) and I think the Supreme Court is correct. I (think (the investors) should follow," Gonzalez said in a telephone interview.

Still, the foreign businessmen were wary of investing further in the country in the wake of uncertainty raised by Supreme Court decisions on economic issues. Gonzalez said the investors should abide by Philippine laws.

"They should know that there are constitutional and legal requirements," he said.

Development of Boracay by its occupants doesn't give them vested rights over it, the Supreme Court said in its ruling last month.

"The enterprised possessions and considerable investment of private claimants do not automatically give them a vested right in Boracay. Nor do these give them a right to apply for a title to the land they are presently occupying," the high court said.

"As the law and jurisprudence stand, private claimants are ineligible to apply for a judicial confirmation of title over their occupied portions in Boracay even with their continued possession and considerable investment on the island," it added.

Harnessed

The ruling, however, doesn't mean the owner of the private claimants from their pieces of property even if they are ineligible to apply for titles.

The Supreme Court said that those with lawful possession may claim good faith as builders of the improvements.

Foreigners can take steps to preserve or protect their possessions and may look into other modes of applying for a title such as by homestead or sales patents, the court said.

"More realistically, Caligiuna may enact a law to enable the private claimants to acquire title to their occupied lots or to exempt them from certain requirements under the present land laws," the tribunal said. Reports from AFP and Norman Bordadora

WHAT WENT BEFORE

ON MAY 22, 2006, PRESIDENT GLORIA Macapagal-Arroyo issued Proclamation No. 1064, classifying almost 66 percent of the 1,032-hectare Boracay Island in Malay as alienable and disposable on the premise that the whole island is government property.

Sixteen residents Orlando Sinay and Wilfredo Delfin petitioned the Supreme Court to nullify the proclamation, saying that it violated their "prior vested rights" because it would require them to bid for their own properties.

The high court affirmed the proclamation on Oct. 8. It said that Boracay occupants, despite having stayed in the property for years and despite having refused investments, had not acquired vested rights because the island was not yet categorized when the President issued the 2006 proclamation.

Senator of the division, Boracay Properties Inc., a group of owners of hotels, restaurants and other businesses, urged Congress to pass a bill seeking to protect existing land occupants of Boracay.

House Bill No. 12009, which is pending in the Senate, allows those who have been occupying Boracay lots for at least 30 years to be taxed five pesos instead of 12 for every square meter.

Inquirer Research

"We are pro-poor and pro-land reform"

By Sunday Negros Chronicle (November 2, 2008)

Our family, Secretary Gary Teves and I, together with DAR Secretary Nasser Pangandaman, has been mentioned in news items of Visayan Daily Star (Oct. 17, 2008) titled "Negros Farmer hurt in dispersal" and an Daily Inquirer issue of Oct. 18, 2008 which stated "Farmers go bald for land" stating further that Rolando Flores, Chairman of Villareal-Caramoche Agrarian Reform Farmers Association, together with Alexander Hayohoy, 41, Alexander Barraga, 36, Wilfredo Beljet, 55, Basilio Flores, 52 were hurt during the alleged dispersal" and further stated that "Secretary Pangandaman and the Teveses are denying us the opportunity to have food on our table".

Former Congressman
HERMINIO "Meniong" TEVES

Two very important issues have to be resolved prior to actual release of said sugar land to CARP Beneficiaries which are **I. Land Valuation and II. Questionable CARP Beneficiaries.**

Firstly, Land Valuation, the documentation of the valuation of the subject property was conducted by the Land Bank of the Philippines, through its Agrarian Operation Center VI (LBP-AOC-VI) in Cebu city, acting for its Head Office, Makati, Manila. Apparently, the field reports by the concerned DAR and LBP personnel, where in initial computation of the value of the subject parcel of land was based, contain erroneous data resulting to an unreasonable preliminary valuation of a ridiculous valuation of a very valuable property. The valuation for the 33.2730 hectares is only One hundred eight five thousand two hundred twenty seven and thirteen centavos (P185,227.13) or P5,566.89 per hectare or point five hundred fifty six centavos (P0.5566) PER SQUARE METER!!

Several Supreme Court decisions imposed that correct valuation of the property be undertaken otherwise it would be confiscatory in nature.

And second is the questionable CARP Beneficiaries, for the record, the decision of DAR Regional director, **these four persons lack the basic qualification of an Agrarian Reform Beneficiary** (DARBO AO#1 Case No. 6-0706-116-2006), for reasons of misrepresenting themselves to be qualified ARB. Rolando Flores, the alleged Chairman of Villareal-Caramoche Agrarian Reform Farmers Association, who is affiliated with TASK FORCE MAPALAD, is not a farmer of said property. Wilfredo Beljet has been a goldsmith driver ever since. Alexander Barraza, has never been a farm worker of the subject property; while Basilio Flores is presently cultivating a separate farm of 6 hectares together with Rolando Flores outside the Teves property in Barangay Villareal, Bacolod City.

This property is about 2.5 kilometers from the Sugar Mill along the National Highway and assessed (for Real Estate Tax) by the Local Government as Commercial/Industrial Land. Many sugar lands in Negros Oriental which are 6 to 8 kilometer from a Sugar Mill were paid by the Land Bank between P130,000 to P220,000 or more per hectare. The highest expense in local farming is Cane Hauling (Trucking) to a Sugar Mill.

In February 2001, a petition for fixing of Just Compensation was filed before the Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board (DARAB) docketed as DARAB Case No. DCN-2C - VI-0080 Negros Occ- CO-01, for the DARAB to determine, after hearing the just compensation of the subject parcel of land, applying the prevailing jurisprudence on the matter, or at least applying DAR-LBP Joint Memorandum Circular No. 15. However, **despite the lapse of more than seven (7) years now, the DAR Adjudication Board has not acted on said petition which was received by them on February 23, 2001.** To make matters even worst, despite being aware of the circumstances obtaining, the respondent DAR still has the audacity to attempt in several occasions, to take over the physical possession of the subject property (without just valuation and compensation) and turn it over to the alleged CLOA holders.

The present Fair Market Value (FMV) of the subject parcel of land, which is now assessed as Undesired Commercial Land situated 2.5 Kilometers from the existing sugar mill along the national highway is easily at least P800,000 per hectare of the sum of P4F16 6065 Million for the 33.2730 hectares.

For the record, our family is known to be pro-poor and not negative to land reform. In Philippine Star issue of June 24, 2002, in my capacity as Chairman of the Special Committee on Globalization and Vice-Chair in the Committee in Agriculture, I proposed a bold financing scheme and the new system of land valuation which would speed up the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program thus CARP beneficiaries who till the land would be able to amortize their land acquisitions in 10 to 15 years while land owners will be amply paid for their properties. Said proposal was sent in a memorandum to President Arroyo, DAR Secretary Hermino Rasgasca, DA Secretary Leonardo Montemayor and Land Bank President Margarito Teves. What is "crucially important" in the global Competitiveness of the Philippine Agriculture and that CARP beneficiaries who actually till the land would be entitled to a Crop Loan (to include subsistence allowance). This promise that Social Justice to landless farmers is not achieved if lands distributed and given to not productive, thus beneficiaries remaining in poverty and food productivity in the country is negative.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

To resolve the existing problems of said 33.2730 hectares Caramoche Property, 1st to correct valuation of the property and 2nd to resolve the issue on who are the rightful beneficiaries) the best alternative solution is our offer to give those beneficiaries as agricultural land for three, thus I officially wrote the Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer (PARO) dated February 22, 2008, (copy enclosed), offering said beneficiaries an agricultural land in Barangay Minoba, along a paved all-weather road, which is only 12 kilometers from the City, for free, meaning there is no need for them to assume or pay Land Bank fee said land and that we will assist them in cultivating the area, planting sugar cane wherein they can avail of the mill's fertilizer loan programs and said cost will be deducted later from the proceeds without interest. Additionally, I offered to give each family a one-hundred-square-meter of residential land, provided that these beneficiaries are real, honest to goodness farmers (magsasaka). To my dismay, these beneficiaries are not really interested in farming nor are they considered magsasaka but are realtors or Real Estate Speculators.

In this particular letter that Finance Secretary Teves submitted to DAR Secretary Pangandaman, which was inadvertently published for influencing the DAR Secretary.

ISSN 0116-2042 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Vol. 23 No. 339

OPINION

Gloria and the Supremes

IN A DEPARTURE FROM TRADITION, THE INQUIRER named an entire institution, the Supreme Court, as Filipino of the Year in 2001. The recognition, in large part, was for the extraordinary role the high court played, in the tumultuous aftermath of People Power II, to keep the ship of state on even keel. The Court, in a word, saved the Republic at a difficult, tumultuous time.

EDITORIAL

Will we cause to hold the Supreme Court in the same high regard a year from now?

The unsettling question forces itself on us, now that the public has come to realize that in 2009 President Macapagal-Arroyo will have the opportunity to fill as many as seven vacancies in the Supreme Court. This is an enormous responsibility, and one which, perhaps to an earlier time, President Arroyo herself would have shrunk from.

In her final Day 2002 speech announcing the opportunity to run for President in her own right, and in several speeches afterwards, Mrs. Arroyo acknowledged that her participation in the events that led to Edsa II and that ended with her assumption of the presidency made her a politically divisive figure. There was, in the words of Jose de Venecia, then the Speaker of the House, too much poison in the air.

That divisiveness remains, because we are still suffering through the post-impeachment era. Indeed, the President has only become a more divisive and a vastly more unpopular figure since she won reelection to office. In her own right, in 2004. Even her decision to pardon disgraced president Joseph Estrada last year, after he was convicted on plunder charges, failed to appease Estrada's many supporters or consolidate her base.

But she continues to hold the reins of power, and next year she will appoint as many as seven new Supreme Court justices. Expect the levels of toxicity to thicken up.

Does this mean we can only expect partisan appointments, justices more loyal to the President than to the Constitution? Not necessarily. We must point out that her elevation of both Antonio Pangalangan and Reynato Puno to the honor and office of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court was not exactly in her best, most partisan interest. We should also note that some of her own appointments, such as Antonio Carpio or even Adolfo Azcuna (whom we originally opposed) have voted time and again against the administration in critical cases. Even an appointee perceived to enjoy quarters as possibly too beholden to the President, like Dante Tinga, has displayed a capacity to surprise (the Hacienda Luisita case is the most glaring example, although others disagree, found the MOA unconstitutionality decision to undermining the Palace strategy).

The high court has also had a history of justices finding assurance in distant, in turning against their appointing power and into history's light. Claudio Teehankee Jr. to give only one famous example, was appointed to the Court by Ferdinand Marcos (was in fact and for over a year Marcos' own secretary of justice)—but he came to symbolize the legal opposition to the Marcosian brand of constitutional authoritarianism.

Discovers, however, are necessarily barely extant; they very rarely convince the rest of the Court. And today's secretary of justice, Raul Gonzalez, is the most partisan in memory; he has effectively politicized the administration of justice. Nor least, President Arroyo has learned to realize the eventually independent Judicial and Bar Council a vital adjunct of her office. She has the power to ignore the JBC's recommendations until her preferred choice appears on the list of recommenders, and it is a power she will not hesitate to use.

That leaves then the question of a justice's loyalties is really a question of character. As appointees the public objects to can surprise even the most extreme critic; an appointee with sterling qualifications can disappoint with unbecoming timidity and lack of independence.

We in the Inquirer continue to believe that an appointment to the Supreme Court is an invitation to greatness, because a justice does not run for political office and is usually already an eminent and well-compensated member of the bar, appointees are accountable only to their conscience and the Constitution. Millions of Filipinos will be watching the Court closely, to praise the worthy and criticize those who fail. Count us among them.

Publisher Isaac Tumot
Editor-in-Chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc
Managing Editor Jose Ma. D. Nolasco
Associate Editor Melquiades S. Gamolo
Associate Editor for Head Orly Vicente A. Gonzalez
Opinion Editor Jose V. Abueva
News Editor Antonio T. Enriquez Jr. • Chief, Sun. Dy. Operations Nicol B. Pacheco
Chief, News Dsk. Desk Ruben C. Almadrones
National Editor Francisco B. Bocobo Jr.
Senior Desk Editor Jaime V. Sarmiento Jr.
Associate Editors Amando Doronila
Chief Photographer Jose U. Sonnet III
Art & Design Director Lisbeth R. Villegas

Board Chairman Maria R. Paz Jr.
President Alexander Pedro Arnaldo
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing Renato B. Ramos
VP for Advertising Felix R. Ocampo
AVP for Circulation Susan Sison B. Tan

All rights reserved.
Except for brief excerpts for fair use in critical or review purposes, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

How safe are advertised herbal supplements?

THE DRUGFREE MEDICINES ACT IS SUPPOSED to be in effect already so prices of medicines should drop dramatically, giving relief to millions of sick people who have to give up or save to be able to buy the vital medicines they need. With that out of the way and the Pharmaceutical Price Index Council headed with noting Chinese products for issues of the chemical industries, shouldn't BFAD and the Department of Health turn their attention to the proliferation of herbal drugs being passed off as "food supplements"?

Look at the newspapers and magazines, television shows and the billboards: they are full of advertisements and commercials of these herbals making so many claims. Celebrities make fantastic claims about the herbals they are endorsing. Considering the taboo free of these celebrities, the frequency of the ads and commercials and the sizes of the billboards, the manufacturers of these herbals must be raking it in. Indeed, there are estimates that the "food supplement" industry is a multibillion peso industry.

The public must be buying these hot buds in droves. They must be getting convinced by the claims in the ads and commercials.

But how true are these claims? Is the public being taken for a ride? Are these herbals good or bad for the health of humans? Alas, we don't know. No scientific studies, either by BFAD or the manufacturers, have been published. Most claims these herbals are not under its jurisdiction because they are not medicine but "food supplements." That is only one loophole in either loophole is the disclaimer: "No therapeutic claims." It may sort the bars. No claim is exactly what the manufacturers are claiming in the ads and commercials. Like snake oil, these herbals claim to cure or prevent almost every disease known to man: arthritis, diabetes, heart disease, atherosclerosis, cancer, cirrhosis, digestive and pulmonary diseases, etc. One manufacturer, an old man who runs around with crying in pain because of arthritis. After taking the herbal supplement, he is down jogging happily. Isn't that a therapeutic claim?

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

Alas, many of these herbals are being marketed like medicine, in capsule, pill or tablet form. The bankers of even the herbal teas make fantastic claims about their products.

Many Filipinos readily take to herbals because we have a tradition of using herbs in our various diseases. In the rural areas where there are less "holistic" and medicines are expensive, the people go to "herbolarios" who prescribe various leaves, barks, roots, fruits, flowers and stems, twined, mixed who are seriously sick would rather take the herbs rather than the medicine prescribed by doctors.

I had a sister in law who was diagnosed with cancer. Doctors prescribed a regimen of chemotherapy. But then a friend told her stories of people cured by herbs.

So she decided to try the herbal therapy. Several days after taking the herbal teas she said she was feeling much better. But then she died soon after.

We have heard of herbals that used to be "miracle cures" of this or that disease. The fact didn't last long, however. Now these miracle cures are no more.

There was, for example, the mahogany seed that supposedly lowered blood pressure. The mahogany seed was the rage only about a decade ago. A fellow journalist, of all people, started chewing the seeds because he heard of the stories about it. He should have investigated first like a true journalist. But he did not and soon he is in the hospital with a heart attack. Fortunately, it turned out, not toxic to humans. Chewing them was more prohibited. But it was too late for my friend.

It is the same thing with other herbals. According to doctors, some plants really have medicinal value. Indeed, many medicines are taken from plants. But separating the medicinal ingredients from other parts of the plant or one thing taking the whole plant or its leaves as teas is another.

A plant or a leaf has many chemical properties. The medicinal property may be only one, but there may be many others that could be harmful, say the doctors. Herbals should be taken with caution because we don't know the harmful ingredients they contain. Studies must first be made before a certain plant is prescribed as medicine.

Ironically, it was the DOH that propagated the use of herbals. A previous secretary of health who used to practice medicine in the countryside, realizing that the cost of medicines was beyond the reach of many poor patients, encouraged the use of herbals. That started the boom in the herbal industry. Every week a new herbal comes out making fantastic claims. As fast as the manufacturers can think of a new name to market to a deadly disease (Cancelan, Arthro, Diabetal, etc.), they come out with a new herbal.

But BFAD should have studied these herbals first before they are sold to protect the public, not only from false claims but also from the possible harmful effects of these products. But BFAD washes its hands by claiming that they are not medicines but "food supplements."

It may be all right to let the tsismosik courts, as with their folk medicines, but it is not all right to allow businessmen to make claims about their products which are not true. That is fooling the public; the public should be protected from them.

What about the doctors and other celebrities who endorse certain herbals? It somebody dies or gets seriously sick after taking the herbals they endorsed, shouldn't they be made responsible? I say we should pass a law that would make it a crime to make false claims about medicines or herbal supplements.

Footnote to history

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

I SAW ONE OF THE BEST MOVIES OF ALL time last week. Except that it wasn't a movie; it was real life.

We can forgive Oprah Winfrey for hyperbole when she enthusiastic as she gasped for words to capture the momentousness of the moment. As well indeed as the crowds at the Grant Park, Illinois and across the country gathered at Chicago's Grant Park and erupted into cheers and applause as Obama was declared the 44th president of the United States of America. Tears flowed copiously down the faces of the more elderly among them, like the Rev. Jesse Jackson who gestured as he held back his emotion, that image alone speaking volumes about the length of the journey and the depth of the victory that had been won that day.

I myself remember approaches last Wednesday to the quiet of my neighborhood when CNN projected Obama the winner. When I saw that image of Jackson, I felt the hair on my body stand on end. Few images have moved me to the depths of my soul. That one did.

As dramatic goes, Obama's victory ranks up there among my list of the five most dramatic events of the last 50 years. It is certainly the most dramatic event of the 21st century, but even 9/11 comes close to it. The only other events I can think of that seem equally awe-inspiring are the tumbling on the moon, the fall of the Berlin Wall, the end of apartheid and one very near to my heart, that in 1986.

Tacked on the heading of the moon, all three events were the culmination of struggles against tyranny, the bursting of light at the end of the deepest darkness. The Berlin Wall was dramatic because it carried a very graphic image, a physical barrier that literally split the world of everything that was absurdly tyrannical or tyrannically absurd, a literal wall that divided a city, a country, a people. The end of apartheid was equally dramatic because of Nelson Mandela, one of the truly great individuals of our time, who endured the severest persecution and punishment before going on to rid the world of one of its greatest plagues. Shame could not have done better.

And John, ah, but that too qualifies as a modern day miracle and has earned its place in the annals of epochal events, notwithstanding that Alabama's conflict preached the virtues of a bloodless revolution long before it. But I'll plead guilty to my inclusion of it being more event more by sentiment than by outer reason.

Just a year ago, the idea that America would have a black president was unthinkable. That he would be a first term senator, that he would have the name Barack Hussein Obama, with a Muslim for a father, Hawaii as his roots, and some years in Indonesia behind him, and that he would carry the improbable name "Barack Obama," was even more unthinkable. The tyranny that Obama ended wasn't just the reign of George W. Bush, however tyrannical that was and would go down the annals of history. It went further, much further. It went back to the beginning of the life of Sen. Elizabeth Cooper, the 100-year-old woman who learned to read to go to the polls last week to vote.

She was born just a generation past slavery, a time when blacks were no more on the road or planes in the sky; when someone like her couldn't vote for two reasons...because she was a woman and because of the color of her skin.

One of those reasons at least Obama pushed back. If not dispelled once and for all, with his victory, he would say in his acceptance speech that that moment was not the change they were seeking but merely the chance to secure the change they were seeking. But as many spectators, or witnesses, would say later on, that wasn't entirely true. As Obama made clear that he was a tall, gaunt and confident figure, not unlike another politician from Illinois who went on to sign a declaration that abolished slavery, he was the embodiment of the change countless people had sought and thought they would and see in their lifetime. His wake was the changing of chains being thrown away.

"Change has come to America," he said. What simply needs to describe the massive shifting of the tectonic plates of history? So momentous that it was the only one we were to see. Some of my friends texted me to say some ran down their faces when they heard those words. I texted back: "Mine too."

It was no ordinary election that took place in the simplest sense on earth last week. It wasn't just whether a Republican or Democrat would reside in the White House or whether the Republicans or Democrats would rule both houses of Congress. It wasn't even just about jobs and the economy or whether a country had had enough of eight years of misrule or would have more of it. It went deeper, it went further.

It went beyond John McCain's contributory words about his understanding the special pride African-Americans must feel that day something he and his running mate in any case cannot in thrust with a campaign that as a desperate hour tried to counteract a "real America"—a bigoted America, a paranoid America, an America that brooked no change from what God, a bearded white man, decreed to be so.

In fact, it wasn't just an election that took place last week in the land of the free and brave, where only two decades ago were free to beat up a black man for seven spending, and where only recently Republican campaign rallies could be heard enough to chant, "Kill him! Kill him!"

It wasn't just an election, it was a revolution.

The road Sen. Elizon Cooper has taken has been long, and it remains long. Obama has miles to go before he sleeps, picking up the journey from here, but last week, he took a long stride, not unlike the gravity-defying kind Neil Armstrong took on the moon.

I saw one of the best movies of all time last Wednesday. Except that it wasn't a movie, it was real life.

Choosing Supreme Court justices

SOUNDING BOARD
Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

LAWRENCE TRIBE PUT IT VERY WELL WHEN he said that "The answers we actually get when we ask questions [about constitutional issues] depend in some degree on who is answering them...including who is sitting on the Supreme Court at the time we ask." And he quotes Justice Robert H. Jackson to say, "We are not final because we are infallible, we are infallible because we are final." But, of course, this is only until a later Court says it was not so final after all.

In recent months we have had decisions coming from the Supreme Court characterized by strong preceding opinions and equally strong dissenting opinions. You can almost predict with precision which justices will take which side. The latest one, the case on the SRA-SD, could have been written by any of the justices, which side one voting vote would go. And people are speculating who the swing vote was and why.

Those who have been following the direction of US Supreme Court decisions cannot escape noting how the Supreme Court is changing. Earlier it was not about abortion, state powers, school prayer, right to bear arms, war powers and others have been decided by a 5-4 vote with the outcome depending on which side Justice Anthony Kennedy votes. At present the Court is composed of four conservative justices, or bottom they can really be for or against the president's ideological inclination.

Our Supreme Court has also had a battery of bitter fights over the performance of the incumbent president. Some are presented during the oral argumentation years after the Supreme Court, not without good reason, was often referred to as the Marcos Court. (I remember the late Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma coming to my office at the time when she was writing her dissent for the Supreme Court. She asked me what I thought she should say because she was being asked whether she was loyal.) Then it was that a good number of the provisions of the 1987 Constitution were precisely intended to prevent decades of the Marcos years.

My impression is that the influence of the president was not so pronounced during the Cory years and the Ramos years. I prefer not to say anything about the current Supreme Court.

In the coming year the retirement of seven justices will create a significant number of vacancies in the Supreme Court. Will the political preferences of the president have a role in the choice of new justices? I am political preferences for good reasons. Our justices have not been known for developing ideological blocs.

The decision-making US Supreme Court justices is usually along ideological preferences, and the search for new justices is dictated by ideological alignment for or against the president who might be liberal or conservative. Thus, Jeffrey Toobin's recent fascinating book, "The Nine," about the US Supreme Court, concludes: "In our future...and our future only...will determine the future of the Supreme Court: the outcome of presidential elections. Presidents are justices in exile; justices are presidents." He adds: "We can expect nothing less and nothing less than the Court we deserve."

Toobin's conclusion could just as well be descriptive of our current Supreme Court. And there is no reason to believe that the Supreme Court of the coming year will be any different. The President will have the opportunity next year to choose seven men and women of her persuasion. Yes, several perhaps even eight.

Under the 1935 Constitution the president's choice of justices of the Supreme Court was limited by the need for confirmation by the Commission on Appointments.

Under the 1973 Constitution there was no check on the president's nominating authority.

The 1987 Constitution did not revive the need for confirmation by the Commission on Appointments in the belief that confirmation by the Court nomination on appointments had made the process too political in a pejorative sense. Hence was created the Judicial and Bar Council to act as a check on the appointing authority. Has this been an improvement?

The Judicial and Bar Council consists of the chief justice, as ex officio chairman, the secretary of justice, a representative from Congress, together with a professor of law, a retired member of the Supreme Court, and a representative of the private sector as regular members. The regular members are appointed by the president with the consent of the Commission on Appointments. The President can appoint only from a list of at least three names, but she is free to select all of them and add for more names until she performs some subtraction.

The composition of the judicial body is revealing. Yes be the judge of the justices appointed under this system. Without a doubt, the performance of the presidents are a factor in the choice of the nominees produced by the Judicial and Bar Council.

Of course, presidential preference is also a factor in the choice of US Supreme Court justices. But the major difference between the US process and the Philippine process of choosing is that in the United States the president's preference is known ahead of time. In the Philippines the process of judicial nomination and the president's nominee is subjected to a rigorous public hearing which can result in rejection, as in the case of Robert Bork. The expectation of nothing opposition was cause a sensation when Justice Antonio Carpio was appointed over Xavier Abete. Nothing like these can happen in the Judicial and Bar Council. In our system, the president's unannounced preference can be considered and disputed by the JBC between interviews.

Toobin's talk about constitutional amendment after the 2000 elections is gnawing in strength, if we should have an administrative process, I am certain that one of the provisions which will be called for is reconsideration of the manner of choosing Supreme Court justices and other appellate justices. Until this happens, we have to make the process work.

In the dark

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO
Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

IMMODERATE GREED AND CORRUPTION, SO dense, will become hallmarks of the present administration when it exits, hopefully, in 2010. Soon, the agricultural lands of Cagayan de Oro, Bukidnon to "fertilize" the results of the 2004 elections, to the unexplained projects like the cancelled NBN-ZTE deal and, recently, with the "pabaksil" scrip as to the real source of the cloak money smuggled into the hands of some of the Arroyo gang.

Greed and corruption, namely are not part of the original making of the Arroyo administration. But, under President Macapagal-Arroyo's watch, these maladies have evolved, with much degree of sophistication in some instances. These "win" have been perpetrated by the very people who run the government, local and national, that many Filipinos are already frustrated and resigned to the possibility that there can no longer be remedied. Much has been written on the dire consequences of corruption, yet this divisive social scourge continues to undermine the very fabric of our society in the most mundane and ordinary Filipinos. Take the case of the once sleepy coastal community of Macabebe in Pilar City, Davao Oriental.

Once a peaceful and close-knit community of 5,000 people living off the sea, Macabebe is changing and battering. Macabebe is now a divided community as a large-scale nickel mining operation threatens to destroy the coral reefs that is the source of livelihood of the town's people.

Macabebe is the main site of the so-called Hallmark Project of the world's biggest mining company, BHP Billiton, and its supposed local partner, Intercontinental Mineral Corp. (Intercon). While still in its exploration phase, the Hallmark Project covered seven exploration permits granted by the government between 1990 and 2005 and covering an estimated 41,000 hectares. Intercon's Exploration Permit 186 (Intercon's nickel reserves for 20 years, it will also put up a processing plant for extracted ores, using the so-called hydrometallurgical technology which is still "experimental and [whose] risks have not been fully assessed."

Intercon's Exploration Permit 186 covers a host of Mandaya tribal communities, which threaten to further divide the people of Macabebe. These studies were contained in the report titled "Steps in the Dark: Why it's time for BHP Billiton to let communities in the Philippines have their say," which was released last week in London by Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (Cafod), the development agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

The report, principally written by Cafod's Emma Blaikie, claimed that, among others, bribery accusations have been leveled against BHP Billiton's agent and support of affected Macabebe residents, particularly among some members of the indigenous peoples. Quoting affected residents, the report claimed that following the entry of the Hallmark Project in the area in 2002, "farmers and government officials from the area received payments from BHP Billiton's subsidiary in the form of motorcycles, or Indigenous Peoples offered inducements to people in Macabebe in order to obtain support for the project." These allegations, the report said, "cast further doubt on the validity of the consent process and therefore on the basis of BHP Billiton's 'social license' to operate in Macabebe."

The supposed lure of bribery, the report said, range from offering food and drinks in exchange for the signatures of approval of the residents to "payments of up to P1 million," which is equivalent to over 120 years of average family income in Macabebe."

What also tainted the process of obtaining "free and prior informed consent" (FPIC) of residents as required by the law, the report added, is the questionable authority of leaders who claimed to represent the tribes in the affected area. There were also allegations of deliberate exclusion in the process of residents, hostile and non-hostile alike, who oppose the project. Also, the recent moves to transfer the Hallmark Project to the Agusan del Norte-Surigao del Sur area, where the people and donor over coal control of the project not only further polarized the residents but also put into question the FPIC process.

The report also noted: "In a poor community like Macabebe, mining has raised expectations ... Yet, the Hallmark Project has created divisions and, as it is evident that people in Macabebe are not well informed about the Hallmark Project. They lack basic information about the project plans and timelines and have not had access to independent analysis of the project's impacts on the environment and livelihoods." The report also noted that "high-skills" posed by the Hallmark Project as it straddles the areas like the Mt. Hamiguitan range and Pujada Bay, which are both considered protected under the law.

While the report made several recommendations, like asking for new FPIC process, by the government and BHP Billiton, Blaikie admits that the odds are "difficult to be realized," particularly with government's attitude toward large-scale mining.

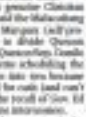
What's in store then for the Macabebe and Pujada Bay area? Will the people be condemned to share Bowil Sarcino's fate, a Mandaya tribal leader, but only this to say: "Mining operations will affect our sacred lands ... If we lose our natural resources, we lose the sustenance and heritage of our ancestors."

* * *

Email: kc_jazz@yahoo.com

The Black Mass

THE LONG VIEW
Manuel L. Quezon III



YOU MAY BE WONDERING WHY THE PRESIDENT had that Midnight Mass, to invoke the aid of Almighty God to keep her in power. After all, according to one description, so-called "Black Masses" were performed by priests to curse enemies, a practice condemned by the Catholic Church. The satanic theme is obvious, but who gathered on the Palace steps for the purpose of the Mass was apparently to ward off other magic.

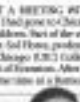
Gorgy "Wonmongrel" Bernardo says, of course, it was a genuine Mass, part of a Holy Week tradition of long standing in official circles. The Philippine Star, on the other hand, reported that the First Holy Mass on held at 9 p.m. during the first Friday of every month, while the First Saturday Masses are held three hours later at 12:45 a.m. during the first Saturday of every month. The Holy Hour on the First Saturday Mass that started at 11:45 p.m. (Friday, Nov. 7) and ended at 12:30 a.m. (Saturday, Nov. 8) at the shrine's hall.

Typically, Palace officials wouldn't get their hands and stories straight. I don't blame them because it's difficult to address why the President was so enamored of the "Fatima Hour" for her important prayer and political services.

Since the Palace is more associated with the profane rather than the sacred, some sacrilegious quarters have suggested that the bowling fights in the Malacañang Mass were there to "consecrate" "love offerings" from the President. Even if the Palace ends her session to have been cash-strapped lately, surely they wouldn't hold out around Mass, or to speculate out of little money bags as a congressman allegedly did in the Senate that would really have made it a Black Mass!

Indeed, Evelyn Macabe said the intentions of the Mass were perfectly wholesome, said, peace, solidarity—and for a safe and fruitful trip for the President, who is set to leave for the United States on Nov. 10 to attend the G-20 Summit. This is the first time she's been given an opportunity with Barack Obama? Yes, as in the history of Church and State has become

REVEILLE
Raymund J. Fernandez



Yes, we can!

TWO YEARS AGO, I WROTE ABOUT A MEETING WITH then-Sen. Barack Obama. My wife and I had gone to Chicago to spend a few months with the grandchildren. Part of the stay was a golfing holiday with my uncle, Dr. Ed Flores, professor emeritus at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) College of Dentistry, who is a longtime resident of Evanston. After an early golf game, I decided to spend some time at a barber in Mobile Bandstand, a nearby Globe, Illinois. The store carried a large sign which read: "Barack & Wolfe restaurant you in the Barack Obama Book Signing Starts. Please read the following guidelines: 1sts. Obama will give a brief talk followed by the signing. If you are getting a book signed, please take a number for your place in the signing line. 3rd. Obama will sign a total of three books per customer ... Thank you for coming."

The book being launched was his second, "The Audacity of Hope." My daughter Carmela, curious to find, was also to herself for posterity my very brief meeting with the first African-American who would become President of the United States. I told her that he was the senator from Illinois, and although he was also already being mentioned as a possible running mate of Sen. Hillary Clinton, there was no indication that he himself was thinking of running for the top spot on the Democratic ticket.

Last Wednesday, we joined UE freshmen personnel in an afternoon snack at Jollibee. Jollibee (the results of a raise by more tabulation of the ballots. Ambassador Bobby A. Ramos was in a bright red dress to welcome the visitors. Perhaps the color of her outfit reflected that she was rooting for the Red Sox over Sen. John McCain. But as we all know now, it was a day for the Blue Hills of Barack Obama.

Incidentally, as we were waiting for the results to come in, a spectacular fireworks display was conducted with prizes being awarded for the right answers. The first question asked was, "Who was the fourteenth American President?" I remembered the story of William Howard Taft, then American governor general at the turn of the 20th century. He weighed close to 300 pounds and ran one reunion he visited Rogers on horseback. There was no way that he was going to make it to the White House. When he reached Baguio, he reported to the office in Manila that he arrived safe and in good shape. The response from Manila was: "How about the horse?" My memory was my shoulder of pardon.

In less than 24 hours Obama, who had worked the magic number of 270 electoral votes, was announced as the winner. This "Hello, Dave" phone calls have [ ] from after, him, John McCain delivered one of the finest concession speeches ever made by a defeated presidential candidate.

He declared, "A little while ago, I had the honor of calling Senator Barack Obama to congratulate him on being elected the next President of this country, and my friend. It is now not as long and difficult as this campaign has been, his success alone commands my respect for his ability and perseverance. But that he managed to do so by inspiring the hopes of so many millions of Americans who had once wrongly believed that they had little or none in little influence in the election of our country is nothing short of remarkable. I deeply admire and commend him for achieving ..."

"This campaign was and will remain the great honor of my life and my heart is filled with nothing but gratitude for the experience and to the American people for giving me a fair hearing before deciding that Senator Obama and my old friends, Senator Joe Biden, should have the honor of leading us for the next four years.

"Today, I was a candidate for the highest office in the country I love so much. And tonight, I remain her servant. Tonight, more than any night, I hold in my heart nothing but love for this country and for all its citizens whether they supported me or not. And I don't mind telling you tonight that I have always felt that my former opponent and will be my President.

"I have his every faith. We never contemplate. We never listen from history 'We make history.'

Indeed, Americans have made history by electing the first American of African descent to the highest post in the land. America is a great country, and it is proud of themselves. They have chosen the world how democracy works, how they can get past their individual taboos and prejudices in putting the interests of the country ahead of their own personal desires and have in defeat, the best of the human spirit continues to shine through the presence of disappointment.

Just as inspiring was the victory speech of President-elect Obama's brother-in-law's uncle from [ ] 60,000 followers gathered in Chicago.

He started with, "Hello, Chicago! If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible, who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time, who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer."

"It's been a long time coming, but tonight, because of what we did on this day, in this election, at this defining moment, change has come to America.

"I just received a very generous call from Senator McCain. He fought long and hard in this campaign, and he's fought even longer and harder for this country he loves. He has endured sacrifices for America that most of us cannot begin to imagine, and we are better off for the service rendered by this brave and selfless leader ...

"This is our moment. This is our time," [unreading all of this American Dream, he really used the fundamental truth—that all of us, no matter what our age or station, what party we belong, and whom we are met with cynicism and doubt and those who will no [but we can], we will respond with [ ] that have defined time and time up the spirit of a people: Yes, we can!"

* * *

Can we get rid of the albatross around our neck? Yes, we can!

Can we get rid of the "must corrupt nation" tag and regain a position of honor in the community of nations? Yes, we can!

Can we call to account those who have made a mockery of our institutions? Yes, we can!

The first step in getting the needed cure is to oppose Charter change.

THEY SAID

No escape from pain

"At this stage, it is no longer events but how nations, states respond to them that will more significantly determine their gravity and duration of the crisis. The recession policy makers face will be more or more pain later. Simply, there is no escaping pain."
—Hilary Clay, Lone Institute on the global economic slowdown

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

Learning from the US elections

LETTERS

I HAPPENED TO BE IN CALIFORNIA ON THE day the 2008 US presidential election was held. I couldn't help but compare the electoral processes in the United States and the Philippines. I had quietly dropped one ballot in the mailbox a week before election day.

• Unlike in the Philippines, the American landscape and airwaves were not littered with the candidates' ugly posters, banners and handbills.

• In the last night, even before the polling places in the Mountain Region, Pine Cone Alaska and Hawaii closed, the whole nation already knew who the next president would be, and most of the US senatorial races were already decided. Compare this with the 2007 Philippine elections: the final results of the senatorial contest were just known until 10 days after election day, and in the 2004 presidential election, the winner was not officially declared until after two months.

• I never heard of anyone killed during the two-year presidential campaign here. In the Philippines, scores are killed and hundreds are injured in election-related violence. Even in elections for barangay chairmen (village chiefs), violence is commonplace.

• While elections in the United States can sometimes be ugly and focus on personalities, this-the-nations are mostly on issues, and most voters choose their candidates according to their assessment and based on the issues. In the Philippines, most voters do not have an inkling of what the issues are, and the result is that movie and basketball celebrities and popular newscasters are almost always sure bets. I won't be surprised if Manny Pacquiao (boxer) or Willie Revillame (musician-television host) would run be senator or president in 2013.

Former Supreme Court Justice Jose Melo, now chairman of the Commission on Elections, which is (still) tasked with computation, is envious of the American electoral system and process, noting how smoothly the voting and counting proceeded. He also commented: "On the behavior of the candidates, they talked about issues and not personalities. Maybe we should be like that." Filipinos should take the cue from Chairman Melo. They should strive to emulate the Americans in this regard, and not let which businessmen coaches to tell the big elections.

What is sad is that many Filipinos, after they read this, would accuse me of being unfair and of his being a "colonial mentality" instead of calling themselves, "Times we have this problem, what do we do about it? What can we learn from the experience of other nations?"

—NOLLIE BALABUYO,
droplip@mail.com

Text messaging in other countries also not free

SEAL B. CRUZ, IN HIS OCT. 30 COLUMN, wrote, "Nokia should share their minimum profits" and that "Telcos in other countries don't charge for text messaging, but Philippine telcos charge P1 for each text message even if the message is only 'OK.'" That is not true.

I've lived in different countries and text messages are not free. In the Philippines text messages are cheaper than in other countries.

—RAJA SAKUBENDARA,
ashikbasandra@lycos.com

Act defensively to end 'culture of carelessness'

ADAM E. TAUBER (TACK, WHO WROTE THE Nov. 4 letter titled "Scrap the dealerships," is spot on with his references to the many "death-traps" wheeling along our streets and highways, almost without any means of support.

He is quite right that in many other countries all vehicles undergo a mandatory check for roadworthiness before their registration can be renewed. Isn, perhaps, it may be possible for the Land Transportation Office to also require such a check. If the LTO doesn't have the capability to do this, let a private agency undertake it.

The Nov. 6 encounter not so long ago an editorial about a vehicular accident on Tabo that killed a doctor and attributed the incident largely to "a culture of carelessness."

We need to be much more proactive and aware of the OTHER (unexplained) health and safety) implications of tasks we do in our everyday lives, and we should be much more defensively on roads. One recommendation comes to mind, after sundown, it becomes more difficult to see if vehicle (pedicabs) and motorcycles (bicycles) which have no lights in front or at the back, therefore, it should be required that these vehicles be equipped with lights.

Not only that, motorcycles, as well as their pillion passengers, must be required to wear helmets. With the millions of carelessness, it is not surprising that our insurance companies so give motorcycles comprehensive coverage.

—WALTER THOMAS MEL,
kaplan9999@gmail.com

Bolante's contumacious display

THE PETITION FOR THE INDEFINITE detention of a slew of Bolante cronies, which was filed on Nov. 3 on behalf of Jocelyn "Joc Joc" Bolante by a team of his, to obtain proof that he does not plan on answering any of the public's questions about the scandal-ridden pass brother went to the Department of Agriculture where he was once a well-placed official himself.

It is clear that Bolante is engaging in unabashed forum-shopping, considering that his previously filed an action before the Supreme Court asking for essentially the same remedy. His counsel's sad evasion of arrest, skillfully planned by feigning illness, is an integral part of his malicious machinations, with the objective of moving away from any investigation he is taking as it takes.

In fact, he has a lot to answer for in the Senblue scam. Bolante still has to explain to the public why the original rebates shown in the Senblue scam, Bladimir Esperar, a jeepney driver who was involved in the scam of his children in Tarlac, Gabun Bolante on March 25, 2005.

What does he know of this most serious crime? This is a key aspect of the Senblue scam which needs to be thoroughly looked into by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

I plead with Bolante to be fully exposed to public scrutiny. If anything, it may yet reveal the antipathy with which some public officials have trumped the Rule of Law and the principle that a public office is a public trust by their participation in the Senblue scam.

Bolante's continued duty at the Dr. Jesús Medical Center is an abuse of the humanitarian gesture extended to him by the Senate. Dr. Jesús Medical Center has already said that Bolante does not have any serious illness, and that his stay in the hospital does not impede his ability to appear in any investigation by the Senate or other office. Now we are being told that he needs more medical tests to ensure that his life is not in any imminent danger.

Mr. Bolante, Bolante—and in this, he may be aided by willing doctors—is aiding the public for the gullible and the naive he that they are not.

His prolonged stay in the luxurious suite—it is clear to many—is nothing but a contumacious display of protracted illness obstructs the cause of justice he has evaded for so long. We respect the Senate leadership's to insist Bolante's appearance in the Senate's session. We expect the senators of the realm to see through Bolante's lies and foolhardy subject him to a legislative scrutiny they owe to the public.

—CONCERNED CITIZENS,
Center for International Law,
19th Asian Corporate Center,
135 Valero Street, Salcedo Village,
1227 Makati City

Inquirer loyalist salutes another, luckier, reader

I READ WITH ENVY THE ARTICLE ON JOSE Isebio Francisco who got a free copy of "Nagpa Dun Book Fun" for being one of the winners of the Inquirer's "22 Wishes" contest.

Like Francisco I, too, submitted an entry for that contest, but I was very disappointed not to see my name on the list of lucky winners. I have been reading the Inquirer for the last 19 years. This started way back in 1988 when I was working as a five-star hotel in Manila where various magazines and broadsheets were available. I soon recommended the Inquirer to my friends when I worked with Cebu Pacific Air, a leader of the incentive for eight years, was given the chance to have a portion with Dona Victoria Valdez.

I was thinking, maybe my entry was via mail mail got lost along the way or maybe it just did not meet the judges' criteria. Nevertheless, I've and my e-mail address hoping this time my letter will reach the editor's desk because I want Consuelo de Quiroz, Neal Cruz and Miss Valdez to know that my wish/dream (I find word was to see in person these wonderful columnists whose contributions I really admire). Meeting them would mean more than any monetary prize. And I, me Valdez, I would have told him about my disappointment with some government employees who do not deserve to be "public servants."

I plead to Francisco for his generosity to share with us his free copy of the book with people who find happiness in reading, although I did not win, I am still reading the Inquirer. Maybe because good habits are hard to break.

—ESTELLA B. VILLANUEVA, 101 B Campos ave., San Agustin 3, Dasmariñas, Cavite

On Christian-Muslim ties: A simple suggestion

WOULD THERE BE PEACE OR DISPEACE IF the Philippines were to exchange its Muslim population for the Christians in Indonesia? This idea is, of course, only for those willing (to migrate).

It's unfortunate that religion seems to divide rather than unite peoples, but we have to face this reality.

—MANUEL MORALEDA,
manuelfmoraleda@sbcglobal.net

Wishing for an 'Obama' to lead pathetic country

MOMENTS IN A COUNTRY THAT HAS ONLY two Cabinet members who are encouraging. Assuming to Former Cabinet members and some Viceroy Puerrus, among the present crop of Cabinet members, only Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral and Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro are not corrupt. And, may I add, only four senators—Senators Ripplay Beltran, Jamby Madrigal, Chiz Escudero and Pilar Pimentel—stood by their conviction to reject the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement. Senator Alberto voted to ratify Dan Gozdy despite the fact that, in committee hearing after committee hearing, in interpellations after interpellations, he has displayed ignorance and opinion of legal and economic experts. Arroyo was shown to be the most rotten of leaders. Blatant voted to ratify it even though it was shown that Arroyo violated the Constitution and that the exchange of notes was not a treaty and therefore, the Senate can unilaterally the senate "do not modify the rights and obligations of the parties under the provisions of Arroyo."

Pathetic is a country whose executive and legislative branches of government conspire to betray its people.

Would that a "Barack Obama" emerge to lead the Philippines and to galvanize the filipino citizenry to seek much-needed change. Would that Filipinos realize that we all are responsible for the state of our nation, that every man and woman, good and self-centered, elect worthy leaders, and Only such leaders lead us to a better future.

As for the self-proclaimed candidates for president, it is clear that some of them will bring this country out of the mess it is in. With any of them to be saddle, it will be "business as usual," corruption as usual.

—ANSELMO B. SALANG,
coordinator,
Green Convergence for Safe Food, Healthy Environment & Sustainable Economy,
sbsag@ymail.com

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Rizal and Makarthi Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to him, 897-2700, 897-4795, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Across the NATION

Kin of kidnap victims seek gov't help

ZAMBOANGA CITY—AS FAMILIES OF KIDNAP VICTIMS expressed high hopes that the Moro Islamic Liberation Front will help free their loved ones, they also appealed for support from the national and local governments to end kidnapping once and for all.

Mindi Dato, twin sister of kidnapped lay coordinator Ali Seldat Mediki Mendoza, lamented how the government considers kidnapping a matter that should be dealt with by the families of the kidnapped.

"The national and local government should be involved... It is not a family matter alone, peace and security is their obligation," Dato said as she expressed fear for her brother-in-law, her sister's officials missed the cue.

Edna Pilanggiya, mother of kidnapped nursing student Jeed AnCherry Pilanggiya, agreed.

"We feel alone, at last," she said.

Mendoza was abducted on Sept. 15 in Tipo-tipo, Basilan along with Esperanzita Hajida and four others, while Pilanggiya, a Zamboangueña, went missing on Oct. 17.

Pilanggiya, 24-year-old nursing student of the Ateneo de Zamboanga University

"I was informed by relatives that two persons grabbed her, and forced him to board the car. My son was struggling to free himself when one of the kidnappers covered his mouth," Edna said.

On Oct. 21, the family received a call from the kidnappers who demanded a P11-million ransom.

What saddens the families of the victims, Dato said, is that they were "forced to choose between paying ransom or military action."

"Our primordial concern is the safe release of the hostages. We are open to all options to help, ransom is just on our list," Dato said.

And where victims have been freed, they and their families are forced to move somewhere else due to the absence of direct support from the government, Dato added.

"With the lack of support and assistance from government on the first day of the kidnapping, families definitely stay quiet for fear kidnappers will get back at them," she said.

For some, Dato has all her hopes on the MILF.

"I am sure they (MILF) have goodwill... they can help free the hostages," she said.

Lt. Col. Bernigo Valdez, deputy commander of the First Marine Brigade, said the kidnapping group in Basilan has about 30 to 40 members.

Julie E. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

Masbate Coast Guard exec axed

LEGAZPI CITY—A MASBATE COAST guard station commander was relieved from office to make way for a fair investigation on the cause of the MB Don Dexter sea tragedy that killed at least 42 people, a Coast Guard official said Tuesday.

Capt. Henry Caballero, Bicol Coast Guard commander, said Capt. Reynaldo Silvoy, Masbate Coast Guard station commander, was temporarily relieved from office before the conduct of formal investigation.

The Special Board Marine Inquiry will start today in Masbate City and is expected to delve on the alleged overloading of passengers and the sailing of the steamboat boat without due notice to the Coast Guard.

Caballero said the boat captain, Dante Bandolon, did not inform the Coast Guard detachment in Cataingan town before it left the port in Dimasalang town.

"We do not have a Coast Guard detachment in Dimasalang. The captain should have sent a radio message to the Coast Guard detachment in Cataingan, which is 30 kilometers away," Caballero said.

The steamboat was ferrying passengers from Dimasalang to Bulan, Sorsogon when it capsized after a sudden squall struck it five kilometers off the shoreline.

Apprentice seaman Jocosolen Boras of PCG-Bicol said that as of Sunday 42 were reported dead, 10 missing, and 105 survivors.

The official manifest registered 119 passengers but the Coast Guard has claimed there were 136 aboard the ill-fated ferry.

Documents from the Maritime Industry Authority showed that the MB Don Dexter had a passenger capacity of only 100.

Two Coast Guard vessels are still pressing the retrieval of Dimasalang to search for missing corpses. *Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Lamang ang may good memory!

CDRI

MEMO PLUS GOLD is an Ayurvedic herbal supplement that contains the "enriched standardized extract" of Bacopa monnieri, traditionally used in Ayurvedic medicine as a single herb for memory enhancement. Containing different herbs with Bacopa monnieri lessens its efficacy.

The unique process of extracting the active molecules (bacosides A & B) from the Bacopa monnieri plant was developed and patented by the CENTRAL DRUGS RESEARCH INSTITUTE, the leading medical research arm of the Government of India.

The standard standardized extract of Bacopa monnieri is perfected only in capsule form and can only be found in MEMO PLUS GOLD in the Philippines.

MEMO PLUS GOLD HELPS:
- Enhance short and long-term memory
- Restore the synaptic activity between neurons
- Improves concentration and learning
- Alleviate absent-mindedness and forgetfulness
- Reduce anxiety and stress
- Decrease senility and the effects of aging
- Maintain your general well-being

MEMO PLUS GOLD

Lamang ang nasa kapsula!

KERAMAG 100
100 years Keramag
Made in Germany

LAZULI

BenQ
Enjoyment Matters
DLP
Let your Presentation Shine
MP512
2300 ANSI Lumens
SVGA (800x600 pixels)
4.8 lbs (2.2 kg)
2300:1 Contrast Ratio
Php. 27,888.00
Free Tripod Screen 70" x 70"
Features
Presentation Timer
3D Color Management
Digital Zoom
Multi Color Correction
Brilliant Color
Closed-captioning
Distributed by:
Promark
Manila (02) 634-8351 to 59
Cebu (032) 344-1181
Davao (082) 221-0585

OMRON
Healthcare @ Home
SEM-1 MODEL
Trade-in your old blood pressure monitor* and get a new SEM-1 AUTOMATIC BPM AT
*any brand, any model of bpm except the manual type
50% OFF
omron
SYS 118
DIA 78
PULSE 70
START STOP
Now only P1,899.00!
• Fully automatic inflation and deflation • Large display, easy to read • Displays average of last 3 readings • Durable non-shaped cuff • 21 sets memory
Distributed by:
Collins

Lack of consultation on geothermal plan hit

BAGUIO CITY—MEMBERS OF seven indigenous groups in Kalinga have opposed a planned geothermal energy exploration project that would cross ancestral domains in four towns.

They said the government and the companies involved in the project had failed to consult them.

In a letter to the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, representatives of the Claveria tribe of Barangay Dananao in Tinglayan town submitted the $3.7 million geothermal service contract signed in September by the Aboitiz Power and Energy Corp. and its partner, Unifast Management Corp., with the Department of Energy.

The project, launched in the Kalinga capital of Tabuk on Oct. 30, will explore the potentials for geothermal energy generation of several areas in Tinglayan, Pasil, Lubuagan and Balbalasang.

The Claveria tribe members said the contract violated the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) requirement of the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act.

The IPRC is proof that the project has been discussed with and endorsed to the community.

Amado Bengayan, NCIP Cordillera director, said only Paul issued an FPIC to the project.

He said no formal complaint about the project has reached his office.

"The FPIC process in Lubuagan and Tinglayan is ongoing. These towns are considered for exploration. We have not received any formal complaints from the residents. They are only complaining to the media," Bengayan said.

At least 100 Claveria elders, farmers, barangay officials, teachers and students signed the letter sent to the NCIP.

"We were wondering why the contract was signed when we were not consulted. We oppose the project not because we are antidevelopment but because there was something wrong with the process," said Manuel Oscan, a member of the Tulgao tribe, another group opposing the project.

"We see the development but we would like to develop our own natural resources," he said.

In their letter, the Claveria members said representatives of NCIP in Kalinga came to their village to hold an information and education campaign for the project in 2007. The NCIP then said, were accompanied by personnel of Apec and GMC, who briefed them about the geothermal project.

But the residents said the meeting ended without reaching any agreement among tribe members and representatives of the NCIP, Apec and GMC, except for suggestions to build an exposure trip to observe the operation of any geothermal power plant in the country.

"We, the present stewards of the Claveria ancestral domain, never waived our FPIC to Apec and GMC [because] they never asked our consent. We want to assure the DOE that our traditional integrity as indigenous cultural communities is intact and we demand a little respect by not being malicously misrepresented in any form by any administrative measure," they said.

Kalinga Gov. Florencia Stamen said the project's proponents and NCIP should adhere to the FPIC process.

"The proponents should consult the residents of communities [where the project would be implemented]. We will not allow the exploration if there are no consultations," Dinero said.

The Claveranon council of elders on an Energy Development Augusto Noyes to inform him that the project would run through their ancestral domains.

Lubuagan Mayor James Afanche also wrote to Noyes in September, said he was supporting the barangay officials in his town who opposed the project because of the supposed lack of consultations.

In August, Lubuagan village chiefs Angelito Aaron (Bulo-Tinai), Bernard Dacon (Lower Uma) and Wilky Mumi (Mabaca-Tinai) asked Noyes to inform him of their opposition.

"This is because we are concerned as there is no outright resolution of the issue, and of our rights and traditions as a people," they said.

In a resolution on Sept. 23, the Kalinga provincial board endorsed the letters, addressed to Noyes, of tribes in Lubuagan and Tinglayan opposing the project. *Jhodexe Calleon, inquirer northern Luzon*

Baguio Cathedral opens doors to concerts to save pipe organ

BAGUIO CITY—CATHOLIC Church officials in the city have allowed the staging of benefit concerts inside the Baguio Cathedral starting Dec. 3 to repair its 46-year-old pipe organ.

Filipino tenor Juan Alfonso Gandeza is coordinating a festival of Catholic Church-inspired pastoral music and original Latin hymns, hoping to raise funds to answer the installation of the pipe organ shipped here by the late Belgian priest Raphael Desmedt.

HOMETOWN *Snapshots*

The cathedral, also known as the Our Lady of the Atonement Cathedral, was built in 1936 until it was consecrated in 1956.

It is one of the few downtown Baguio buildings that survived when American planes bombed the city during its liberation from Japanese forces in 1945, according to former Mayor Virginia de Guia.

Fr. Benedicto Lumbales, parish priest here, said some parishioners might be irked by the Church's decision to make the church and its grounds public entertainment venues.

Next week, the cathedral will host dancer choreographer Douglas Flavius and his group who will perform inside the church.

Lumbales said the events that would be performed inside the church are suited to the sanctity of the environment.

Patient music, he exampls, which the Dec. 3 international one, do festival shows music, is sacred music, he said.

"But we cannot really please everyone, for the full Mass. If you take it here performances from the perspective of art, then there [some] are going to be appreciated. If not, then you [may] be offended," Lumbales said.

He has been receiving certificates lately due to a landscaping project aimed at beautifying the cathedral grounds.

Church officials first launched a fund drive here after the July 1990 earthquake because the center had eroded portions of the hill where the cathedral stands.

Lumbales said the Church this time is trying to raise about P2 million to repair the pipe organ.

THE BAGUIO Cathedral, which survived the war, is slowly going modern, and would soon become a stage for operatic and pastoral music. *Victor Balanza, inquirer northern Luzon*

NEWSBRIEFS

■ DAGUPAN CITY

Crackdown on 'kotong' cops

SENIOR Supt. Cesario Ocampo, Bayan del Sur police chief, on Friday ordered a crackdown on the so-called "kotong" cops and reactivate the Land Transportation Office's traffic ambush detail to go now, after he reportedly arresting two motorists.

Ocampo also admitted he has been receiving reports about the excesses committed by some police officers and LTO operatives.

"They are engaged in illegal activities in the pretext of implementing traffic rules," he said.

He also ordered police chiefs to arrest LTO enforcers caught red-handed by barangay officials. *Edwardo P. Rosal, Inquirer Mindanao*

■ JOLO, SULU

Road turned over to Indanan

ABATTOIR homes and their counterparts from the farmer's cooperative of the Philippines turned over the road project that will link Indanan to Indanan residents.

The turnover ceremony was marked by a ribbon-planting activity, which was led by the 6th Marine Battalion Landing Team 1.

Maj. Gregorio Hernandez Jr., MBLT Executive officer, said the 600-meter concrete road will help facilitate the development projects of the Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines.

Indanan is one of the poorest towns of the province and is noted for the presence of the Abu Sayyaf, a self-styled Islamist group, and other terrorist-linked groups.

Ed Gerard Inquirer Mindanao

■ SAN PEDRO, LAGUNA

1 killed, 3 hurt in mishap

A MAN died while three others were injured when a motorcycle collided with a circuit around 12:30 a.m. Saturday in Barangay Nalibaran, Sto. Rosa City.

A police report said the motorcycle was identified as JK Bike, reckonly died after hitting the Kia Genesis van was coming from Pasay City. Bike, which was driven by Federico Salvacion.

Three passengers of the van were reported by injured and were brought to the Sto. Rosa Medical hospital.

Police said it was a head-on collision and that it was the motorcycle that hit the van.

Melvin Elico, Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ LUCENA CITY

2 Koreans recruiters held

TWO SOUTH Korean nationals and their Filipino cohort, allegedly engaged in illegal recruitment, were arrested in Pinagbuhatan, Quezon, on Thursday.

A police report said Cho Jaihyun, 36, and Kim Sangsoo, 44, both South Korean nationals and residents of Metro Manila and Pasadi Lot 1 no. 24, of Biñan, Laguna, were arrested in Barangay Mayuga while in the act of recruiting 50 workers for employment in an internet shop in Makati, Manila, which the suspects purportedly owned.

The suspects failed to present documents giving them authority to recruit workers. They also had gathered illegal recruitment and were turned over to the provincial jail here.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ PAGASA, ILOCOS NORTE

Shark kills fisherman

A FISHERMAN was killed on Thursday morning when he was bitten by a whale shark off Calayab Bay here, police said.

Joel Bacud, 36, a resident of Barangay Calayab, suffered major bite wounds on the body. Half of the body which caused his death, police said.

His friend also bore several bite holes. His body was taken after hours after another fisherman who saw the incident alerted the police.

Cecilio Arradaza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Garcia supporters, critics gird for showdown

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO— Supporters and critics of Bulacan Gov. Enrique Garcia Jr. are set to mass up at the provincial capitol grounds in Malolos City today when the Department of the Interior and Local Government is expected to serve the six-month preventive suspension order of the Ombudsman on the governor, the Inquirer learned on Saturday.

The entities are set to front for the visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo in Limay town, southwest of Balanga City, to witness the presenting by Pelcon of at least 200,000 bundles of oil obtained from the Malampaya oil field in Palawan.

The Kabalikat, a women's group loyal to Garcia, has been organizing a rally since Friday to show support to the governor.

Renato Oliver, DILG Central Luzon Director, told reports reaching him showed that pro-Garcia forces had put up barricades at the capitol since 5 p.m. on Friday.

Bulacan police chief Senior Supt. Manuel Asuncion confirmed that Garcia's supporters rushed to his side but left Friday evening.

Garcia's political rivals were also mounting a rally to demand that he respect the Ombudsman's order.

Aside from Garcia, the Ombudsman also ordered the suspension of provincial legal officer Aurelio Angeles Jr., provincial treasurer Herlinda Valerio and former provincial administrator Rodolfo de Mesa.

"We have now determined that it is very likely that they would again intimidate or influence witnesses or would tamper with records that might be vital to the prosecution of the case against them," graft investigation and prosecution officer Judy Anne Escalona said in the order.

"That makes it impossible on the part of the Office of the Ombudsman to immediately place them under preventive suspension as the need for preventatory measures against possible abuse of the prerogatives of their office weakens under the circumstances," said the order.

The complainants, all workers of the disputed Insular Paper Products Industries Inc., alleged that Garcia, former Vice Gov. Reginaldo Montes, 12 other current and former local officials and two police officials, committed graft, falsification of public documents, untrue illegal detention, misdirection of public properties and funds and plunder in the disposition of P4.25 million worth of two backhoe, equipment and machines to construct two roadways.

The court ferreted the claims of businessman Vicente Gaerlan to recover the assets. The provincial government disposed of these through an auction and others auctioned, took ownership of them, in excess unpaid taxes worth P2.3 million.

The Senator workers filed the complaint to recover some P5 million in salaries and wages.

Garcia called the suspension "political harassment," warning that to Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez, who, he said, blamed him for the defeat of her brother, Rodolfo Navarro, in the mayoral race in Sorsogon in the last elections.

Last week, the Ombudsman also ordered a graft case against Garcia at the Sandiganbayan in connection with a "grossly disadvantageous" cooperative agreement the provincial government entered with the Overseas Construction Co. Good Government over the Buenos properties of the brother of former First Lady Imelda Marcos.

On Saturday, the capitol was quiet and secured by some provincial government personnel, said Balanga City police chief Supt. Benjamin Silo.

Rojas said he has not yet received a copy of the order from the Ombudsman or heard from Governor Femando Perez. Pimentel Orejas with a report from Greg Bahnasian, Inquirer Central Luzon

ISLAND KIDS
Children of Bulupisan Island enjoy playing on the white sand beach. Bulupisan Island is the farthest island of Concepcion town, Iloilo.

The Grand Holiday
SALE up to 70% Off
ON ITALIAN-MADE LIGHTING PRODUCTS
Get a FREE Italian made ceiling lamp for every purchase of P2,000 in a single receipt (Cash basis only)
Choose from a wide array of indoor and outdoor lights in modern and classic styles.
Candil Lighting Phils., Inc.
G/F, La Mar Bldg.
147 San Bernardo St.,
Sta. Cruz, Manila
(FREE PARKING AVAILABLE)
Tel: 735-9171; 733-4520
Fax: 736-9171
mail@candilighting.com

Put Your Ideas in the Spotlight!
InFocus
The Big Picture

SEIKO
Legendary Strength.
Extraordinary Performance.
SEIKO 5 SPORTS
THE BEST SERVICE FOR SEIKO & ALBA WATCHES AT THESE SEIKO SHOWROOMS
ALBA
Available at any SEIKO Showrooms and authorized Dealers nationwide

3 Bali bombers executed, stand defiant to the end

From page A1

and suicide bombings that flouted the world's most populous Muslim nation since the front lines in the war on terror.

The three militants never expressed remorse, saying the bombings were meant to punish the United States and its Western allies for alleged atrocities in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

They were warned relatives of victims—88 of whom were Australian—at their trials five years ago and regularly planned to repent here.

In recent months, the men had publicly expressed hope their executions would trigger revenge attacks in Indonesia, a nation of 235 million.

Security forces were placed on high alert ahead of the midnight executions. The American and Australian embassies, which received bomb threats in recent days, were among those warning their citizens to be careful.

Justice served

Though the three Bali bombers said they were happy in the manner, their lawyers fought for years to keep their executions. They also opposed death by firing squad, saying their clients preferred beheadings because they want more "humanity."

It was a day of mixed reactions for survivors and relatives of victims.

Brian Deegan of Adelaide, who lost his son Josh in the bombings, said "The years don't roll quite so often, absolute justice has diminished a bit," but that nothing would ever make the pain disappear.

He staunchly opposes capital punishment and wrote about revenge attacks. "There's no doubt around the world of people that are prepared to commit suicide to achieve a result," he said.

Bomb-in the west

Others expressed relief justice had been served at last.

With general elections looming in months ahead, the executions were considered politically sensitive. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono risks losing the support of conservative Muslims.

The three men were among more than 70 people convicted in connection with the twin nightclub blasts in Bali.

One of the attackers walked in the first time.

Bombers' comrades still hiding in Jolo

By Jocelyn R. Uy

SO THREE OF THEIR COMrades are dead and before a firing squad yesterday, Indonesian militants Dulmatin and Umar Patek apparently remained in hiding in Mindanao, awaiting military efforts to capture them.

"There is no information that they have escaped as we are still maintaining our intelligence offices in nearby areas in southern Philippines," Brig. Gen. Juancho Sabban, chief of the 3rd Marine Brigade, told the Inquirer. "We are relentless in our operations, all we need is a little patience. We will get them."

Both Indonesian militants are believed to be bombmakers for the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) terror group. The United States has offered a reward of $10 million for the capture of Dulmatin and $1 million for Patek.

"Right now, it seems that they are inactive and on defensive mode. I don't think they will make a move because it will compromise their whereabouts," Sabban said.

Dulmatin and Patek are believed hiding in Jolo with the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

Protected by accolytes

In Indonesia, the focus of the manhunt is on Noordin Mohammed Top, a Malaysian bomb fighter and allegedly a key player behind some of JI's bloodiest attacks, including the 2002 Bali bombings.

His arrest would help to decapitate the terrorist group.

Four die in Bali's hiding with the protection of JI acolytes within Indonesia, analyst Noor Huda Ismail told AFP.

"It's still the ideology of JI members to protect their group, especially fighter groups, even if they don't agree with their actions," Ismail said.

If, majority of them don't agree with the bombings but they agree that the enemy is the US and its allies."

Also on the run

Noordin's ability to plot attacks has been strongly curtailed by a string of recent arrests, including those of Singapore-based recruiter expert and analyst John Harrison said.

"He may try to camouflage himself, like changing clothes and using different types of hair cuts. But since he's high profile, camouflage isn't like he's weak in the long hand, it will just buy him time," Harrison said.

Also at large is Mas Selamat bin Kastari, the alleged Singapore JI leader who escaped from prison in the city-state in February 2008.

Dalkamono, reportedly the paymaster in Southeast Asia of the al-Qaida terror network, also remains on the run, Mish reports from AFP and Reuters.

China announces $586-B stimulus plan

From page A1

in infrastructure and social welfare by the end of 2010.

China's export-driven economy is rapidly feeling the impact of the economic slowdown in the United States and Europe, and the government has already cut key interest rates three times in less than two months in a bid to spur economic expansion.

The Chinese move came as business leaders assembling a weekend forum in Dubai warned the world to brace for even more painful economic times ahead, but they said the victory of US President-elect Barack Obama offered hope for trade leadership at a crucial time for the global economy.

In the United States, policymakers and economists also agreed on the painful bottom line: It's only going to get worse.

In Brazil, a gathering of several bank governors and finance ministers from the world's leading economies, including emerging powers like China, tackled the threat of a global recession and forged a consensus on the need to take coordinated measures to stimulate growth.

The "financial crisis that began with bad US home loans is now moving from the banking sector into wider swaths of the global economy—costing millions of jobs, leaving washing machines or car loans and driving once-mighty companies into bankruptcy.

The US government on Friday reported that the jobless ranks soared past 10 million last month, the most in a quarter-century, as factories shut down and offices laid off 240,000 more Americans with the holidays looming. The US unemployment rate in October shot up to 6.5 percent, its highest level in 14 years.

Addition talks are doing elsewhere too: The US labor agency said last month that world unemployment would hit 210 million people by the end of next year, its highest rate in the past decade.

Cause for concern

Participants at a regional meeting of the World Economic Forum in Dubai on Saturday called for rules, but they also acknowledged there is room for concern.

"Your concern may call the bird of that crisis rarely," said Mohamed El-Erian, one of the two chief executives of Pacific Investment Management Co. (Pimco), the investment firm based in Newport Beach, California.

Participants at the Dubai forum agreed with with El-Erian that dismissing up the fallout would cause time and tens of sacrifice.

Howard Davies, director of the London School of Economics and Political Science, said rundown of countries like the United States and the United Kingdom had no alternative but to increase savings and reduce household debt.

Davies said homeowners and individual investors needed to accept the reality that a big chunk of the term eggs they had assumed on paper was likely gone forever.

Business leaders were hopeful, though, that the incoming Obama administration would bring a renewed willingness by industrialized countries to work with other countries to fix the global economy.

Challenge of a lifetime

In his first news conference as president-elect, Obama said investors were facing the economic challenge of a lifetime but expressed confidence he would deal with it.

"Immediately after I become president, I'm going to confirm that economic or other head on by taking all necessary steps to ease the credit crisis, help homebuying families, and restore growth and prosperity," Obama said after meeting with economic advisers in Chicago.

Unemployment is expected to keep rising during Obama's first year in office, which record budget deficits will ramp his domestic agenda.

The labor department's unemployment report provided stark evidence that the economy's health was deteriorating at an alarmingly rapid pace. With employers shedding jobs every month for the past three months, the recession were considered politically sensitive. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono risks losing the support of conservative Muslims.

The three men were among more than 70 people convicted in connection with the twin nightclub blasts in Bali.

One of the attackers walked in the first time.

The GREAT BODEGA SALE

COSMOTECH ANNIVERSARY SALE

NOVEMBER 10 TO 14, 2008

ALL MUST SELL !!

Participating Brands

Panasonic, Canon, SANYO, TOSHIBA, viewTECH, BARCO, EPSON, CREATOR

Panasonic Projectors | Canon Projectors | Toshiba Projectors | Sanyo Projectors

Panasonic Plasmavision | Viewsonic/Draper Screens | Viewsonic/Draper Wall Screens | Panasonic IP Cameras | Toshiba Laptops

Panasonic Fax | Panasonic Plasma | Canon Digital Camera | Panasonic Digital Camera | Telecommunication, Electronics and Computer Technician Tools/Kits | Panasonic Cordless Phone

Remote Mouse/Presenter | Bracket and Cables | CREATOR Video Switcher | Canon Printers | EPSON 9i System | ViewSonic Overhead Projectors

BIG, BIG DISCOUNTS. First come first serve, no reservation. Don't blame us if you come late.

Our biggest sale every year. We beat the increase in dollar exchange rate.

SJF Arega Court Bldg. 1, 2129 Chino Roces Ave., (Formerly Pasong Tamo St.) | Makati City | back of Makati Medical Center | Parking area available | Tel: 750 2404 to 08, 709 1751 to 55, (632) 8444416 (8am-6pm)

Projector World

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5438 series of 2008

RP closes door on Thaksin

From page A1

"If an applicant for political asylum insists, the first thing the (Security Council) typically does is to send him back to his home country," Hodale said in Filipino in a phone interview from Hong Kong.

As of yesterday, Hodale said the Department of Foreign Affairs had not received "feelers" that Thaksin entered haven in the Philippines.

"Of course, he wouldn't want us to be embarrassed, that's why I don't think he would make such a request," Hodale said. "He's an ordinary figure. He's a former prime minister of Thailand."

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita also said that Malacañang had not received any official word on whether Thaksin, who was ousted by a military coup in 2006, intended to fly to the Philippines.

The Thai media reported that Thaksin could be based in Manila, expected this week that Prime Minister Samchai Wongsawat, his brother-in-law, arriving here today for a visit.

British ban

Britain has banned the entry of Thaksin and his wife Pojaman by sensitivity their visas, provoking speculation in the Thai press over whether Thaksin might set up home next.

The British move came after Thaksin was last month sentenced in absentia to two years in jail for conflict of interest after helping Pojaman buy state-owned land at below the market minimum.

There appears to be a number of countries willing to take in Thaksin, the Thai media said, mentioning the Bahamas and Africa countries. The Nation reported Thaksin was building an 85.5-million mansion in China, where he has close ties to the government.

On Saturday, the Thai press said Thaksin might head for Bhutan.

Thaksin has spent most of his time in Britain, where he bought and subsequently sold the Manchester City football club. He returned to Thailand in February last. But again in August after Pojaman was sentenced to three years in jail for corruption.

'Thaksinomics' for Filipinos

In 2003, Mr. Arroyo cited Thaksin's "Thaksinomics"—for his economic policies, for enabling Thailand to recover from the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

Addressing Makati businessmen that year, Thaksin offered this advice: "A politician always thinks about the next election, while a statesman always thinks about the next generation. If you think of the next generation, you can do a lot of things." With a report from AFP

Obama unveils $175-B stimulus plan

Obama has proposed additional stimulus spending amounting to $175 billion, including money for roads, bridges and aid to hard-pressed states. He wants a rebate of $500 for individuals, $1,000 for families and a new $3,000 tax credit for businesses for each new job created.

The US economy contracted at a 0.3 percent pace in the July-September quarter, reflecting a massive meltdown in consumer and signaling the onset of a likely recession.

Analysts expect the economy to shrink further in the current October-December quarter and contract further in the first quarter of next year. This would fulfill the definition of a recession—two straight quarters of contracting economic activity.

G-20 meeting

In Brazil, finance ministers and central bank governors from the Group of 20 (G-20) wrapped up two days of talks in Sao Paulo to lay the groundwork for next week's Washington summit on the deepening economic crisis.

World Bank President Robert Zoellick said all countries now the need for a coordinated response to the global crisis but stressed it would be "unwise" to try to place a new financial architecture. Reports from AP and Reuters

Destabilization talk back in season

[illegible] inflation" in government, dispatched soldiers to eavesdrop the creation of a new democratic action by "corrupting and" the "corrupt and murderous" Arroyo administration.

The website "Inside Topsyturvy-get ng Filipino" carried the statement, which was posted some time after midnight Mon to Malacañang, distanced himself from Lagdameo's call, pointing out that it did not reflect the CBCP stand.

In the statement, soldiers identifying themselves as junior officers of the Philippine Army, the Philippine Air Force, the Philippine Marines, the Philippine Navy and the Philippine National Police said they "are publically aware that the supposed constitutional foundations of this administration are grounded on illegitimacy, abuse and impunity..."

"We are aware that our government leaders function with little regard for conscience, moral principles and the public good, yet when we demanded accountability, we were called destabilizers."

"We therefore [have] resolved to act on our constitutional obligation to oust a usurper who has violated the sovereign will of the people ... And to do so, we will first sweep out this corrupt and murderous administration. The time to do it is now," the group said.

—Jaime K. Ly

Royal Brunei Airlines

Family Fun Getaway

The Empire Hotel & Country Club

4 Days / 3 Nights Package

From USD **1,677***

(Inclusive of tax and fuel surcharge for 2 Adults and 1 Child)

Package Includes:

- Round Trip Economy Class ticket with Swiftlets on Royal Brunei Airlines
- Three nights accommodation based in a superior room
- Complimentary daily buffet breakfast
- Complimentary daily pass to all facilities of The Empire Country Club
- One time guest passes to the Empire Cinema
- Complimentary access to the health club, sauna, gym, aerobics and pool
- As a special incentive, a 4th stay is available at no extra cost

*Taxes and conditions apply

For more information, call your travel agents or Royal Brunei Airlines at 8838801-08 or visit us at www.bruneiair.com/philippines

ROYAL BRUNEI

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

METROPOLITAN LIFE PLAN CO., INC.'S LIQUIDATION PROGRAM

Metropolitan Life Plan Co., Inc. ("Metrolife") hereby gives notice that subsequent to the revocation by the **Securities and Exchange Commission** ("SEC") of its Certificate of Registration on 11 August 2003, its proposed liquidation program known as the **Buy-Back Scheme** was approved by the SEC on 11 September 2008 per SEC Rec. No. 310, s. of 2008.

Under the Buy-Back Scheme, Metrolife shall buy back all fully paid and outstanding life plans as of 30 June 2008 at fifty percent (50%) of the gross pre-need price. All life plans which were availed of or were surrendered as of 30 June 2008, but not yet paid, shall be paid, their corresponding memorial service value plus cash assistance value, or cash surrender value, as the case may be, pursuant to the life plan contract.

The planholders of Metrolife shall receive a notice of this liquidation program through registered mail.

The planholders are enjoined to contact Metrolife within thirty (30) days from receipt of the notice or following the date of this publication, whichever comes later. Metrolife may be reached at:

Address : RM. 905, National Life Building, Ayala Ave., Makati City
Tel. No. : 810-0644 / 810-0696

(Sgd.) **Fina R. Bustos**
Authorized Representative

Tired of going from building to building to distribute your resumés?
We can help you.
JOB

Power Center, Quezon Ave cor. Biliran Road
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

FOR THE SALE OF SCRAP / JUNK ITEMS

"As is, Where is and Clean-up" Basis
Date of Bidding : November 26, 2008

Item No.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	Minimum Bid Price
1	One (1) lot scrap/junk metals, consisting of PLDT RTU, penthouse cabinets, condenser coils, junk transformer cores, dilapidated switch gear, steel frames, fabricated steel/metal plates, rack metal panels, pipes & bars, all kind casing, metal sheets, GPU casing, steel filing cabinets, lighting fixtures, G.I. Sheets, conduit pipe/wires/cables, junk telephone apparatus, assorted telecom equipment & casing, computer/server parts & cables, electronics parts, junk office chairs, empty drums, used office furniture, materials.	**20-Lacson Warehouse,** Opp. Manila Overseas Station	P432,000.00 PER LOT
2	One (1) lot, used/scrap tires, various sizes/ brands		P 4,464.00 PER LOT
3	One (1) lot scrap metals, consists of unserviceable/obsolete RTU/PLC panelboards/ cabinets and steel rack frames		P 45,584.00 PER LOT

REQUIREMENTS FOR RELEASE OF BID DOCUMENTS:

The complete set of bid documents shall be issued to bidders upon application and payment of a non-refundable fee of **P500.00 per set.**

Bidders only in the prescribed form to submit/be received not later than **NOVEMBER 25, 2008** at the Admin Conference Room, Materials Management Division, TransCo, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City and shall then and there be opened and publicly read.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. Bid Security in the form of Cash or Manager's Check equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price;
2. Latest Financial Statement with income Tax Return of the bidder (original or BIR certified photo copy);
3. Duly executed Bidders and Terms & Conditions of Sale; and
4. Bidder's Inspector Certificate.

Additional information may be secured from Mr. Jovencio J. Dadoy (Chief, Traffic & Warehouse Section-MMD) at the above address or cellphone no. 09152370281.

Inspection of Bid Documents will start on **November 12, 2008 until 4:00 PM on November 25, 2008.**

"The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality found therein and to accept such proposals as may be advantageous to its interest."

(Sgd.) **ORLANDO M. ILAGAN**
Chairperson, BAC/SCC-HEAD OFFICE

MINTREA

Certificate of Registration No. 1481 (DOLE & CSC)
Certificate of Accreditation No. 686 (CSC)

Mindanao Office:
TransCo, New Loon, Mintal, Davao City
Tel. Nos. Loc. 4858, DTS 851-1008,
PLDT (082) 293-1099,
Cellphone No. 09189932126

Head Office:
4th Floor, TransCo, Power Center,
Quezon Ave. Cor. BIR Road, Diliman, QC
Tel. No. Loc. 4711

DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

The MINTREA, an employees association of the National Transmission Corporation (TransCo) duly accredited by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), would like to clarify its stand regarding the TransCo privatization bill as discussed in the news articles published in the Business World dated October 18 and 23, 2008, respectively.

The following are its strong manifestations:

1. MINTREA is exerting all efforts for the inclusion of job security and appropriate separation package in the Franchise Bill currently under deliberation in the Senate;

2. MINTREA continues to work for the protection of employees' rights in the event the Franchise Bill is approved; and

3. MINTREA recognizes all ranks and/or classification of employees in its struggle for job security.

MINTREA

SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa
E-mail: pi_sports@inquirer.com.ph

STA. LUCIA'S Joseph Yeo (left) and Mobers Dendon gang up on a hilarious Celino Cruz of Red Bull as the Barako bid.bird an inbounds play in yesterday's match. ALEXIS ROMAS

Aces regain solo lead; Realtors up

By Manuel R. Castillo

ALASKA MADE SURE THAT PUREFOODS won't have a shot at winning this one.

The Aces, taking quite a long time to get going, outplayed the Hotdog Juicy Giants, 95-83, last night to regain the sole lead in the 33rd PBA Philippine Cup eliminations at the Araneta Coliseum.

Alaska waited only but broke away in the second quarter to clinch a third straight win and seventh in nine games as the Giants (named yet another key player in thirty-four rounds).

Raymundo was rushed to the hospital early yesterday because of severe diarrhea, and the Aces made the most out of his absence by ganging up on James Yap and choking the entire Purefoods offense starting in the second period.

The Giants dropped to 4-5 after getting no closer, like to their last two games, of trailing victories with clutch-and-game jumpers.

Joe Devance scored 20 points, Larry Rosadelo contributed 16 and the Aces still even handily despite just seven points from Willie Miller, who was removed in the fourth quarter.

"They're missing key players, and that takes a lot out of your lineup," said coach Tim Cone, referring to the Giants who were already without sixth man Peter June Simon and starting point guard Roger Yap.

"We were down early but I told my team to just be patient because we know we were going to wear them down," he added. "We put our concentration on going James [Yap] a tough night with fifty-two down."

In the first game, Kelly Williams scored 27 points to go with 16 rebounds as Sta. Lucia eked out an 82-80 victory over Red Bull to end the Realtors' three-game slide.

His two free throws in the final 1:27 gave the Realtors an 80-77 lead before Dennis Espino hit a basket with 49.5 left to secure the sidelocking champions' fourth win in eight games.

"Everyone stepped up with Ryan [Boyet] out," said Sta. Lucia coach Boyet Fernandez. "At least we stopped our skid. It was tough losing three straight games."

Espino went on to finish with 10 points and Jhaks Ildefonso filled in well for Boyet by scoring to 14 as the Realtors gained some positive footing going into their next match against Talk 'n' Text on Friday.

Boyet, the top rookie last season, missed a second straight outing because of back spasms.

The scores:

First Game

STA. LUCIA (82)—Williams 27, Espiritu 10, Mendoza 14, Cruz 3, Corteza 3, Ingles 6, Ho 4, Jurtiz 5, Ildefonso 7, Cortez 0, Edwards 1, Lee 0.

RED BULL (80)—Lastimosa 15, Cruz 10, Reyes 10, Sharma 10, Enriquez 7, Peñalosa 6, Cruz 5, Pinto 2, Dimaculangan 2, Cruz 2, Mendoza 0.

Quarters: 16-20, 37-40, 62-60, 82-80.

Second Game

ALASKA (95)—De Ocampo 20, Devance 20, Cruz 14, Castro 10, Simon 10, Cortez 7, Miller 7, Dela Cruz 5, Chan 0, Lastimosa 0, Sandrinelli 0.

PUREFOODS (83)—Yap 20, Yu 7, Ilustre 13, Dalupan 12, Reyes 12, Ibañez 7, Ebona 0, Sandrinelli 2, Cervantes 0, Mercado 0.

Quarters: 16-23, 36-41, 71-62, 95-83.

FLY TO HONG KONG AND CRUISE LIKE A STAR!

Fly Philippine Airlines to Hong Kong and enjoy a 5days/4nights cruise aboard the SuperStar Aquarius for only USD511!

PACKAGE INCLUDES:
- Fiesta Class airfare
- 2 nights Twin-sharing hotel accommodation in Hong Kong
- Twin-sharing cruise accommodation (Inside Stateroom cabin, Category DI)
- Round-trip transfers

ITINERARY
- Manila-Hong Kong (Via PAL)
- Hong Kong-Tianjin (Xingang) or Halong Bay (port of call depending on sailing date)-Hong Kong
- Hong Kong-Manila (Via PAL)

Booking period: Until Nov. 17, 2008
Sailing period: Nov. 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2008
Taxes, fees, and surcharges, visa fee and other incidental charges are additionals. Rates applicable to Philippine passport holders, resident aliens with proof of residency and aliens traveling together with Philippine passport holder.

For bookings and inquiries, please call Star Cruises preferred sales agents:
Metro Manila: *Cruise Shop Plus Travel (02) 409-0300 / (632) 811-2833, Filotion Travel & Tours (02) 896-1300 / 894-2888, Infinite Travel & Tours (02) 521-2125 / 529-8279, Dimensions Tours & Travel Agency, Inc. (02) 521-1690 / 521-2828, Pan-Pacific Travel Corp. (02) 244-8886 / 523-1990, Travel Unlimited, Inc. (02) 844-2061 / (632) 7421, Ust Grand Travel (02) 243-0888 / 919-9583 Provincial: Cebu Fortune Travel (032) 254-3731 / 254-3733, Destination Specialist Inc. (032) 232-2454 / 231-2681, *Grand Eden Asia Travel & Tours (082) 226-8691/221-8683, *Tiao Thai Travel Pampanga (045) 435-5548 / 435-0349

*Credit card payment not available. *Prices subject to change and subject to availability.

Supported by:

ALLIED BANK

Philippine Airlines
Clearly No.1
www.philippineairlines.com

Aplus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

OFFICE SUPPLIES? CALL US WE DELIVER!
Office Basics Corp.

NCRPO WARNS POLICE SPOKESPERSONS:

Talk to media men or face sanctions

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION POLICE OFFICE (NCRPO) yesterday warned police public information officers (PIO) in Metro Manila and their superiors that they would face administrative sanctions should they fail to comply with a memorandum issued by Philippine National Police Director General Jesus Verzosa.

"Sanctions will be imposed on any PIO who will fail to disseminate information to media within two hours from the time of the commission of any crime," NCRPO Public Information Office head Supt. Rommel Almeda told reporters at the Tinapayan forum in Manila.

"The least they could be charged with is neglect of duty. The head of the office can also be made accountable if the PIO is remiss on his or her duty and the said head fails to comply with the tasks specified in the memorandum," he added.

Almeda said that Verzosa's Oct. 28 memorandum clearly specifies the tasks of PIO chiefs or spokespersons.

According to him, their designated functions were to conduct press conferences or media briefings regarding a major accomplishment or significant incident within each locale, brief the chief of the incident, answer requests for information from the public and the media on any activity or accomplishment of the police office or unit or media queries of any ongoing investigation or police operations; and give information to the public and to the media on matters regarding the activity or case being handled by the office or unit concerned.

Unit heads or station commanders are tasked, under the memorandum, to designate public information officers. In the absence of the designated PIO, he or she must delegate the assigned functions under the PNP directive.

Without deliberate delinquency of the memorandum, the NCRPO official said, could be considered insubordination.

In a controversial memorandum, Verzosa said the blame in any police station nationwide "shall not be made accessible to the public or media" without authorization by the station commander "in order the dissemination is in compliance with a lawful order of the court or any pertinent authority."

The memo further said that any information on any case may be provided "exclusively" by the designated PIO or by spokesperson, "unless for justifiable reasons, the head of office decides to do the dissemination himself or appoints a suitable representative personnel."

It also stated that any request for information "shall be routed through and be provided by the PIO/spokesperson upon clearance from the head of office."

PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Eleazar Ramolete said Verzosa's directive was aimed at preventing both victims and suspects in crimes, particularly those involving women and children.

The memo, however, was criticized by Human Rights Chair Leila de Lima who said the PNP may have gone overboard in restricting media's access to police blotters to protect women and child victims.

At the same time, Malacañang asked the PNP to explain Verzosa's order. Presidential Press Secretary Jesus Dureza urging that "the right to information is very basic and blotters are public records that should be available."

SIGN OF THE TIMES
MIKE ALQUINTO
You know the holidays are just around the corner when vendors on Elliptical Street in Quezon City start hawking Christmas lanterns.

2 suspected rob gang members arrested

By Nancy C. Carvajal

TWO MEN BELIEVED TO BE part of a robbery group whose members illegally manufacture or sell policemen's uniforms have been arrested by authorities.

Senior Supt. Magtanggol Gatdula, Quezon City Police District director, identified the two as Edgar Dagoli Mellarina, 33 and Daniel Eslao Reina, 22, both natives of Escalante, Negros Occidental.

Gatdula said the two men were arrested in Barangay Bagbag, Novaliches on Friday afternoon on the strength of several arrests issued by courts in their home provinces.

Before that, operatives of the QCPD Criminal Investigation and Detective Unit, led by Senior Insp. Bernard Pian and under the supervision of CIDU chief Senior Supt. Nelson Mahilum, monitored the two men's movements for several weeks.

A police source who asked for anonymity said the two were on their way to one of their group's safe houses in Barangay Bagbag when they were spotted by CIDU operatives.

Recovered from them were a grenade and a caliber .38 revolver.

The source said that Mellarina, along with Macario Polinar and six other unidentified men, were identified by witnesses as among those who were involved in the shot-out of a security escort of a mayoral candidate in Escalante town last year.

Mellarina has three outstanding arrest warrants for charges of murder, illegal possession of firearms and theft which were filed against him in Negros Occidental, the source added.

A mission order signed by Maj. Elmer D. Dimzon of the Philippine Army which was found in his possession identified Mellarina as a "confidential agent of the 7th Intelligence and Security Unit, IEG camp, Lapu-lapu, Cebu City."

Police, on the other hand, has two outstanding warrants of arrest for six theft and robbery charges which were issued by a Negros Occidental court in 2005.

Metro gets more cops for Christmas

By Tarra Y. Quismundo

SOME 1,000 OFFICERS FROM the elite Regional Mobile Group (RMG) of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) will be deployed to crime hotspots in the metropolis during the Christmas season as part of security measures.

NCRPO Director Jefferson Soriano told reporters that the RMG—which used to be known as the Regional Special Action Unit—will lend the Metro Manila police's anti-carnar and anti-crime efforts, particularly by keeping a close watch on crucial public areas such as shopping malls, bus terminals and parks.

Based on the NCRPO's crime consultay since 2005, the crime volume usually goes up during October and November before declining in December.

Highly-trained in special operations, RMG officers are expected to back up the forces of the five Metro police districts.

"We are disembarking 1,000 RMG officers ... That will be extra for the yuletide season. We need the RMG as our front liners for extortion and other serious crimes," Soriano told reporters in Camp Crame.

"We will really in the districts where the crime-prone areas are and we will give them the RMG officers, to mulls and bus terminals, that's where we have to put additional police visibility," he added.

The police have especially targeted robbery syndicates whose members pose either as policemen or soldiers. Since December, the groups have struck 16 times, victimizing a National Food Authority warehouse, a soft drinks company and several other commercial establishments. (See related story on page A22).

As a result, Soriano banned policemen from using the GMC Special Weapons and Tactics) uniform which was used by the robbers in several heists.

He also put up a reward of P500,000 for any persons who can provide information that will lead to the arrest of members of the risk groups.

DID YOU KNOW

A RECENT University of the Philippines study found that the Makati Central Business District is the hottest place in Metro Manila. Other hot places in the region are the Ortigas commercial area, Ninoy Aquino International Airport, MRT North 1 Ave. Post Area and the Chinese cemetery.

DyHC, Binalbagan, Negros Occidental

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
PHILIPPINE TEXTILE RESEARCH INSTITUTE
East Avenue cor. Bonifacio, Taguig City
TEL NOS. 929-6042 to 46, 2284 and 927-7260

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PHILIPPINE TEXTILE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers to submit sealed bids/proposals/offers to supply the eligibility and the bid for the following procurement:

Name of Project	ADDITIONAL BUILDING
Location	Main Office - PTRI Bldg., Taguig City, and Technology Center in Cagayan de Oro City
Approved Budget for the Contract	Php 1,000,000.00 (one point)
Contract Duration	January 2009 to December 2009

All participants relative to Eligibility, Statement and Competency, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract(s) will be governed by the rules and procedures of R.A. 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

Those interested may obtain further information, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	November 11 to 25, 2008
2. Pre-bid Conference	November 20, 2008, 9:00 a.m.
3. Opening of Bids	November 27, 2008, 9:00 a.m.
4. Post-Qualification of Bids	November 28 - December 5, 2008
5. Notice of Award	December 12, 2008

Bid Documents will be available only at the Business Development Unit and may be downloaded from the website of PTRI, www.ptri.dost.gov.ph. Bid Documents shall be submitted on the 27th day of November 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the Philippine Textile Research Institute, East Avenue cor. Bonifacio, Taguig City.

The PTRI reserves its responsibility to reject any or all bids and to waive any defect therein and to accept the bid/proposal/offer that is most advantageous to the government.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) BELEN S. REGIS
BAC Chairperson

Citizen's call

Sleepless in Marikina

DALUBS Mayor Marides Fernandez! Please do something about the noise from the pubs at Nangka Interior Provident Village. The owners of these establishments have no regard for residents with normal body clocks who have to work during the day. These pubs are at it even if it is already 3 a.m., with deafening music loud enough to reach Pasig City! Also, please do something about the burning of trash in the open around the city—causing misery to the literally breathless!

ASHER, 30, Provident Village Marikina City

Rude tricycle drivers

I WANT to report this group of rude tricycle drivers who take passengers to Soldiers' Hills 3 Marikina City. One of them charged me P35 for a "special" ride. When I told him that it only costs P24, he rejected me rudely and beat me up. "Di ok ego, P24!" is their anything Marikeños City, officials can do to teach these spoiled tricycle drivers a lesson or two on good manners? To the first place, they charge more than what I pay when I take the bus to Makati City.

ROW-ROW, 27, Marikina City

Illegal loading

ILLEGAL loading and unloading of passengers is a common sight

BROKEN DOWN "POSO NEGRO" AT UP ILIAS
"CC," of UP Mira, Diliman, Quezon City writes: "The poso negro [sewer system] in front of Buildings 20 and 21 here at UP Mira has been in a state of disrepair in the last three years. Parati walang amoy sa magkabilang siapin. Sanitary marino, tapos ganoon naman. It is unclogged periodically, but it works only for a while. Meanwhile, we live with the threat of contamination from our streets littered with waste. We are afraid to be in the main room out of us living in the buildings nearby drink and susceptible to illness. Please help us."

In front of the Department of Agriculture building between Visayas and Ninth Avenues in Bonifacio City. Jeepneys playing this Cubao-Airport route are also parked illegally. I also wonder why traffic aides don't apprehend pedestrians who cross the wide stretch of Commonwealth Avenue despite the presence of overpasses for their safety. These people also have not to be the cause of traffic in the area."

JOSELITO D. MUSNGI, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

Barangay beside dump

OUR BARANGAY in Vitas, Tondo, Manila is located close to a dump. What do we do when the wind blows our way and we inhale toxic fumes? A lot of residents are already sick because of this situation. Please help us, Mayor Lito! Thank you.

JUDY, 45, Manila

METRO BRIEFS

2 rob suspects killed

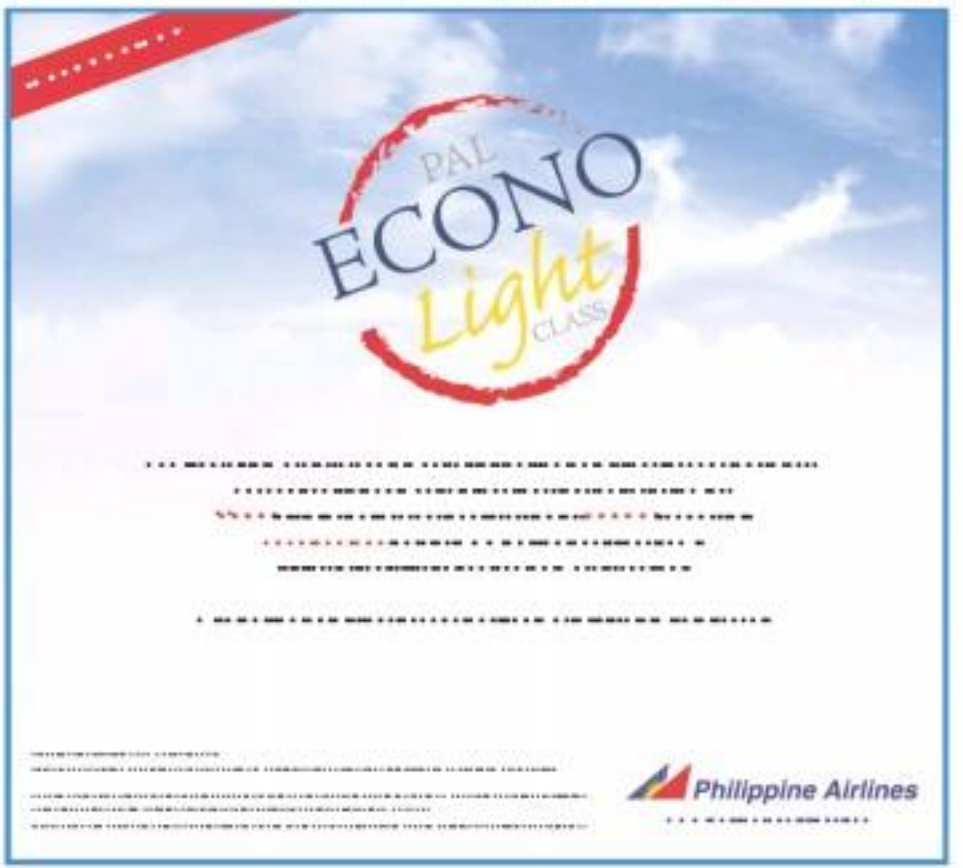
TWO SUSPECTED robbers were killed by a gunfight with a police officer on Edsa in front of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City yesterday, the police said. One of the men was identified in the police report as Sergio Segubienar, 42, based on an identification card found in his pocket, while the other fatality was identified only as alias "Rabal." The shootout occurred at about 5:30 a.m. in front of the mall's Building A, while PO2 Rommel Abayog of the Police Community Precinct-4 was on patrol duty, said investigator PO3 Joemar Pisces said. The policeman was riding a motorcycle when a passenger bus stopped in front of him from which robbers in eight men alighted, a report to Senior Supt. Carlos Sr. Segui, the Mandaluyong police chief, said. Upon seeing Abayog who was wearing a police jacket, one of the men, armed and unmasked, drew out a 9 mm pistol and fired at the policeman, while some of his companions fled, Pisces said. Abayog also took out his firearm and fired back, hitting the shooter and one of his cohorts.

DJ Yap

Woman loses P150,000

FOUR men took nearly P150,000 in cash and valuables from a woman yesterday. The robbers, who were armed with knives, struck after the victim's vehicle stopped at the traffic light at the corner of President Quirino Avenue and P. Zamora Street in Pandacan, Manila. Reports from the Manila Police District's theft and robbery section said the robbery happened at around 7:50 a.m. yesterday while Carmela Ibanez, 33, of Bulacan, Pampanga, was aboard her private jeep. Ibanez told investigators that when she stopped at the traffic light, four men approached her vehicle and at knifepoint, took her cash amounting to P150,000, several pieces of jewelry and a cell phone. The victim immediately went to the MPD headquarters on United Nations Avenue to report the incident.

Jeannette I. Andrade



RUSSIAN seamen on an Akula-class submarine during a military parade rehearsal in Vladivostok in photos taken on July 23. AFP/FILE

AIDS vaccine: Problem-plagued path more promising than thought

PARIS – A STRATEGIC TACK IN the quarter-century-old effort to devise an AIDS vaccine, which has most became dubbly clouded by problems, could be more promising than thought, according to a study published on Sunday.

Research – among lab primates, not humans – showed that a vaccine based on priming "killer" T-cells, the heavy artillery of the immune system, can work, its authors said.

This approach was massively hit by the failure last year of what seemed a highly promising candidate, a prototype called VRC0 developed by the US pharma giant Merck.

VRC0 used a modified form of a virus for the common cold as a "Trojan horse" to deliver elements of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) into the body to prime the immune defenses.

The new research, carried out among rhesus monkeys, likewise uses a cold virus to deliver the vaccine.

But unlike the Merck vaccine, it proved emphatically that T-cells could be marshalled into action to tackle elusive immunodeficiency virus (SIV), a close cousin to HIV.

When injected with a lethal dose of SIV, monkeys were able to limit replication of the virus and remained healthy for more than 500 days after infection.

Troll vaccines are not of the preventative kind, like the vaccines for polio or smallpox, which have become famous for shielding us against microbial infection.

Instead, they are "therapeutic" vaccines, meaning that they mimic killer T-cells to fan out on a search-and-destroy mission after infection, slaughtering enough infected cells to keep the viral invaders in line.

AIDS first emerged in 1981, but progress in identifying the virus that caused it unleashed early optimism that a vaccine would quickly emerge.

Out of the 30 candidates that have been evaluated among humans, only two vaccines have made it through all three phases of trials, and both were flops.

About 30 vaccines remain in the pipeline.

They focus almost entirely on an immune-cell response rather than by priming antibodies, an approach that was the first choice for vaccine engineers but has now been largely discarded in the realization that HIV is a viciously mutating foe.

March 22 chief the VRC0 trial September 2007 after it was discovered that volunteers who had prior immunity to the Ad5 strain of cold virus used in the formula were more at risk to HIV infection than counterparts who had not been given the vaccine.

"This is a controversial field right now," admitted Daniel Barouch of the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center of Boston, Massachusetts, who headed the study published online on Sunday in the British journal Nature. AFP

NO RADIATION LEAK

Russian nuke sub accident kills 20

MOSCOW – AN ACCIDENT aboard a Russian nuclear-powered submarine making a test run in the Sea of Japan killed at least 20 people, officials said on Sunday.

The nuclear reactor aboard the submarine was operating normally and radiation levels were normal after the accident on Saturday, Russian Navy spokesperson Capt. Igor Dygalo said.

The accident occurred when a fire-extinguishing system went into operation in error aboard the submarine, Dygalo said other officials said. The system is designed to release Freon instead when activated, according to the TASS news agency which cited an official with Russia's top investigative agency.

It was not clear what activated the fire-extinguishing system.

The official, Sergei Shatkin, said 14 civilians and six sailors were killed and 22 others were hospitalized after being removed to a destroyer that brought them to the Pacific port of Vladivostok, ITAR-Tass reported.

Earlier, Dygalo said more than 20 people were killed, including sailors and workers from the shipyard that built the submarine, and that 21 were injured and hospitalized. He said their were 208 people aboard, including 81 servicemen. Officials did not reveal the name of the submarine.

It was Russia's worst naval accident since torpedo explosions sank another nuclear-powered submarine, the Kursk, in the Barents Sea in 2000, killing all 118 seamen aboard. In 2003, 11 people died when a submarine that was being taken out of service also sank in the Barents Sea.

Saturday's accident came as the Interfax News Agency, which has military and security ties, reported that the Admiral Gorshkov, a class of frigate, was running aground in the Barents Sea. The report could not be confirmed.

Dygalo said the casualties resulted from the "unsanctioned activation" of the firefighting system in the two sections of the submarine closest to the bow, and that the crashes ensure that powers it was not threatened. AP

Hidden cash found in bathroom wall brings little joy

CLEVELAND – A CONTRACTOR WHO found $182,000 in cash and currency hidden in a bathroom wall has ended up with only a few thousand dollars, but his finds were vindication.

The windfall discovery amounted to little more than grief for contractor Bob Klein, who couldn't agree on how to split the money with homeowner Amanda Perez.

It didn't help those much, either. She testified in a deposition that she was considering bankruptcy and that a bank recently foreclosed on one of her properties.

And 21 descendants of Enoch Doane – the wealthy businessman who stashed the money that was named around the 1930s Great Depression, a time of bank collapses and jobblessness – will each get a mere fraction of the find.

"If those two individuals had sat down and resolved their disputes and divided the money, the heirs would have had no knowledge of it," said lawyer Gid Shaterkovitch, who represents the Doane estate. "Because they were not able to do that, now a third party is in a contested way, they both lost."

Klein was tearing the bathroom walls out of an 83-year-old home in 2006 when he discovered two green metal lockboxes suspended inside a wall behind the medicine chest, hanging from a wire. Inside were white envelopes with the return address for "9 Doane Street Agency."

"I ripped the corner off of one," Klein said during a deposition in a lawsuit filed by Doane's estate. "I saw a 50 and got a little dizzy."

He called Perez, a former high school classmate who had hired him for a remodeling project.

They counted the cash and posed for photographs, both grinning like lottery jackpot winners.

But how to share? She offered 60 percent. He wanted 60 percent. From there things went sour.

A month after The Plain Dealer reported on the case in December 2007, Doane's descendants intervened, suing for the right to the money.

By then there was little left to claim.

Perez testified in a deposition that she spent about $14,000 on a trip to Hawaii and had sold some of the rare late 1920s bills. She said about $60,000 was stolen from a shoe box in her closet but testified that she never reported the theft to police.

Klein said Perez accused him of stealing the money and began leaving him threatening phone messages. Martinkovits said doesn't believe the money was stolen, but said he couldn't prove otherwise.

There were no court records showing that Perez had filed for bankruptcy.

Klein said he lost a lot of business because media reports on the near portrayed him as greedy, but he feels vindicated by the court's decision to give him a share.

He's often asked why he didn't keep his mouth shut and pocket the money. He says he wasn't raised that way. AP

WORLD BRIEFS

Owner of collapsed Haiti school arrested

PETIONVILLE, Haiti – Police arrested the owner of a Haitian school that collapsed on top of students and teachers during school recess, killing at least 89 people and sparking a frantic search for survivors amid tons of concrete rubble. Yorlin Augustin, the preacher who owns and built College La Promesse in suburban Port-au-Prince, was arrested late Saturday and charged with involuntary manslaughter, said police spokesperson Garry Dominique. Augustin was being held at a police station in Haiti's capital as a 23-rescue crew searched overnight for survivors of Friday's collapse of the three-story building, which normally holds 800 students and teachers. AP

UN accuses rebels, militia of war crimes in Congo

GOMA, Congo – Rebels and progovernment militiamen executed civilians this week in two waves of terror that the top UN envoy to Congo said amount to war crimes – ones that highlight the inability of undermanned UN peacekeepers to protect civilians. Meanwhile, Congo's army advanced toward rebel lines on Saturday, with renewed fighting near the provincial capital of Goma threatening a fragile ceasefire. Fighting broke out on Friday near Kibati, about 10 km north of Goma. On Saturday morning the Army had moved more than one kilometer north into rebel-held territory and the rebels called a ceasefire 10 days ago after routing the army. AP

PM: Singapore not ready for an Obama

SINGAPORE – Singapore, a multicultural state of over 2.6 million people, is not ready for a non-ethnic Chinese premier in the near future, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said in remarks published on Sunday. Lee made his remarks on Saturday during talks with members of the local Malay community in response to questions of whether Barack Obama's election as the first black US President could be mirrored in Singapore. "It's possible. It depends on how people vote, on who has the confidence of the population," Lee was quoted as saying in The Sunday Times. "Will it happen soon? I don't think so, because one has to win votes," he added. AFP

Bin Laden's son deported from Egypt

CAIRO – Osama bin Laden's son Omar was deported from Egypt on Sunday after returning from a failed bid for political asylum in Spain, his English-born wife Zaina Alsabah bin Laden disclosed. The couple were not allowed to enter Egypt on their return from Spain which on Saturday turned down the 27-year-old's request for political asylum after he said he did not fear danger in the Middle East because he is a pacifist. AFP

Neuron gene linked to multiple sclerosis

PARIS – A newly discovered genetic flaw may tap the nervous system open to assault from the body's own immune system, leading to multiple sclerosis (MS), according to a study published on Sunday. In MS, the immune system attacks myelin, the fatty sheath that protects the cells of the central nervous system. As a result, nerve signals get slowed or blocked, causing difficulties in movement and coordination, muscle weakness, cognitive impairment, slurred speech and vision problems. There is no known cure. AFP

BDO Private Bank

Wealth Management
Awarded Best Private Bank and Best in Wealth Management.

BDO Private Bank
Recognized by the region's investing community for its wealth management expertise and Open Architecture Philosophy.

COUNTRY AWARDS
2008 Best Private Bank in the Philippines

Alpha Southern Asia
2008 Best Private Wealth Management House in the Philippines

We find ways

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Queco

NZ enters new era of conservative rule

NORTHRAIL
North Luzon Railways Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The North Luzon Railways Corporation (hereafter referred to as NORTHRAIL), invites interested DISTRIBUTORS, DEALERS and/or SUPPLIERS to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **Procurement of One (1) Double Cab Pick-up 2.5 L 4x2 M/T Diesel, One (1) Double Cab Pick-up 3.0 L 4x4 M/T Diesel and Four (4) Asian Utility Vehicles** for NORTHRAIL. The Approved Budget for the Contract is PESOS: Five Million & 00/100 (Php5,000,000.00).

Interested Parties are required to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the Chairperson, NORTHRAIL Bids and Awards Committee, NORTHRAIL Corporate Office, 2nd Floor, Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st Street corner 2nd Avenue, Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila on or before 4:30 pm between 11 to 15 November 2008. **The deadline for the submission of the LOI is on 15 November 2008, 4:00 pm**. The LOI should state the Company's name, address and contact person directly employed by the company. Interested distributors, dealers and/or suppliers must secure the Bid Documents and Terms of Reference for a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (Php5,000.00).

For additional information or clarification, please call Ms. Alma Arzaga at 856-3808 or 856-3587.

(Sgd.) GLORIA GEORGINA DJ JOTA
Chairperson, NORTHRAIL-BAC

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND—NEW ZEALAND entered a new era of conservative rule on Sunday, with Prime Minister-elect John Key promising to be a moderate amid fears some of the country's policies on global warming and indigenous people could be rolled back.

Republic of the Philippines
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
Mandaluyong City

CORPORATION FINANCE DEPARTMENT

In the matter of the
NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on 11 September 2008, a sworn amended registration statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on behalf of [illegible] Financial Corporation (the Corporation) for the registration and issuance of Two Hundred Ninety Six Million Seven Hundred Ninety Five Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty (296,775,950) common shares, with a par value of P1.00 per share, to be publicly distributed on a concurrently right basis, of which Fifty Nine Million Three Hundred Fifty Five Thousand One Hundred Ninety (59,355,190) shares out of the stock rights entitlement of one (1) registered stockholder shall be offered to the general public through the Trading Participants of the Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc.

The offer price has been priced at [illegible] Corporation entered into an underwriting and standby agreement dated [illegible] with [illegible] Financial Corporation, whereby the latter undertook to underwrite the unsubscribed portion of the offer shares.

According to the papers presented, the following persons are the officers/directors of the Corporation:

Name	Position
[illegible]	Chairman
[illegible]	President
[illegible]	Executive VP/Director
[illegible]	Treasurer/Director
[illegible]	Director
[illegible]	Director
[illegible]	Director
[illegible]	Director
[illegible]	Director
[illegible]	Independent Director
[illegible]	Independent Director
[illegible]	Corporate Secretary

Said amended registration statement and other papers subsequently submitted thereto are open to inspection to interested parties during business hours and copies thereof, photostatic or otherwise, shall be furnished upon such parties request, at such reasonable fees as the Commission may prescribe.

(Sgd.) JURRAT C. DALUMPAS
Director

Voters on Saturday elected the wealthy former currency market trader to lead them through the global financial meltdown, handing long-serving left-wing Prime Minister Helen Clark a crushing defeat.

Key said on Sunday that he hoped his National Party and coalition partners would be sworn into government within about a week so he can attend the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit of Pacific Rim leaders in Peru on Nov. 22-23. The financial crisis will top the summit agenda.

"We think it would be in the best interests of the new government if ... no prime ministers from abroad came to attend that meeting," Key told reporters in Auckland.

"That would mean fast-tracking final negotiations with coalition partners on issues in government to speed up the formal handover process.

In nine years in power, Clark helped build New Zealand's reputation as one of the world's greenest and most socially progressive societies, based around the South Pacific nation's rugged landscape and strong indigenous Maori culture.

Key campaigned in a moderate, but his policies include plans to eventually abolish special parliamentary seats for Maori and making the country's greenhouse gas emitters trading scheme more favorable to business.

Senior National official Stephen Joyce on Sunday sought to allay fears that Key may have a hidden right-wing agenda—as Clark had alleged—saying he "will lead a centrist government".

PRIME Minister-elect John Key, ... that would not be deflected into "economic extremism."

Key sought to address the issue in his victory speech late Saturday, saying: "You have my pledge. I will lead a government that serves the interests of all New Zealanders."

Key says the farming export-dependent economy is the top priority with the global financial meltdown expected to make a recession already under way even worse. He has promised to introduce debt-funded tax cuts before the end of the year and establish a razor gang to review and trim government spending.

"New Zealand voters took a major swing to the right yesterday," the Sunday Star Times newspaper said on its front page, calling Key's return a "major and controversial."

Clark announced she would quit as Labour leader, effectively ending her 15 years in the public eye, though she will remain in parliament as a backbencher. AFP

Country Charles
Monday Number Supplies
FREE 1 TIMER
For collectibles you won't afford to lose
JOANNE S. Marketing Exec.
0917 893-7610

SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Melendrez Associate Editor Francis E. J. Ochoa

HOT DASHBOARD
OVERSTRAINS
YOUR AIRCON

DASHBED

La Salle spikers advance

LA SALLE spiker Colleen Hernandez (9) follows up on a failed attack of St. Benilde's Kiza Yumang (7) in yesterday's game. ARIEL ESTOPACE

Mercado in top form as Lady Archers get No.5

By Jeannine N. Faye

LA SALLE CAPTURES THE FIRST FINAL FOUR BERTH AS Stephanie Mercado again proved her worth as main contender for the top individual plum.

Mercado, the 18-year-old daughter of former Asian track queen Lydia de Vega, dented College of St. Benilde's final-frame rally to lead the Lady Archers to a 25-16, 22-25, 25-16, 25-17 victory yesterday in the second conference of the Shakey's V-League volleyball competition at The Arena in San Juan.

FINISHED W	L
LyMak	1
Adamson	1
L. Benilde	1
UST	1
UP	1
Ateneo	1
Ateneo	1
St. Benilde	0

LADIES' TRIUMPH
| Yesterday's five match
1 p.m.—Ateneo
vs Adamson
4 p.m.—UST vs UST
6 p.m.—Ateneo
vs St. Benilde

The hard-earned win moved the La Salle outfit to the first semifinalist.

Hoping to savor a sense of her own, Mercado starred anew with 17 points, including a crucial kill that held off the Lady Bonnets' comeback from a 12-3 deficit to 22-16 in the fourth set.

Jacqueline Alarca added five blocks to clinch with 16 points.

"Our big man (four straight wins) was a big factor in our semifinal bid," said coach Frankie Jimenez after his Lady Archers snapped a two-game skid against the University of Santo Tomas Tigresses and the Adamson Lady Falcons to reclaim the top spot with their fifth win in seven matches.

The rail, similar Mercado-boosted finish from a seventy-five-point production against the Lady Falcons.

"We struggled, especially on our set plays, but we're glad it's over and we got the win," said Jimenez.

Camille Cervera scored six of her seven to seal La Salle's victory after Mercado came through with a hit.

Earlier, the San Sebastian Lady Stags headed on a solid defense to roll past the Eastern University Lady Tamaraws, 25-20, 25-18, 25-17, and secure solo third spot with a 3-1 record.

"We played tough on defense," said San Sebastian mentor Roger Gonzaga. "We have to gained our old fighting form, particularly Jacel (Mendejar) and Lou (Lontoc)."

The defeat relegated the Lady Tamaraws to fifth place at 2-3 along with idle Ateneo of the Philippines.

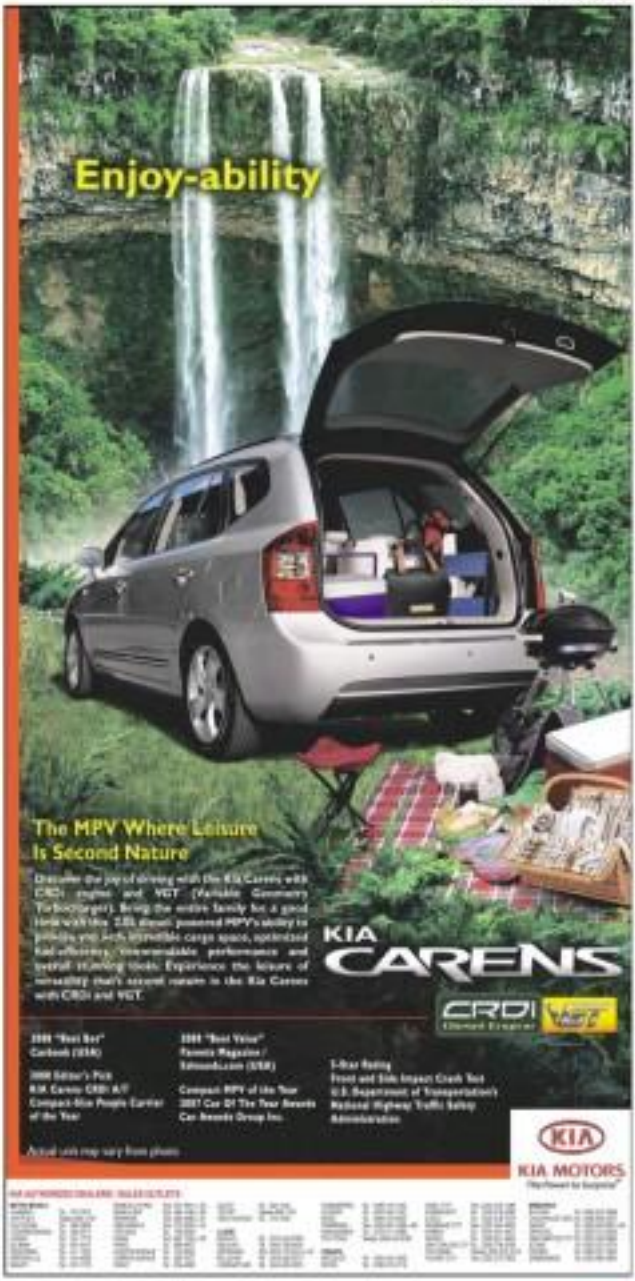
The winless Lady Shavers dropped out of semifinal contention, following their fifth straight setback.

Ryzabelle Devanadera finished with 14 hits, while Lontoc chipped in 11 points, including two service aces, for the Lady Stags.

Guest player Suzanne Roces, Jay Rencio and Mendejar also combined for 23 hits.

The Lady Bonnets kept tough throughout the second set, 25-21, as the Lady Archers struggled with server Kaye Montano.

Chie Saet then took over from Montano in the next frame to set the tone for the Lady Archers' aggressive finish.



Salud bats for review, revision of WBC sanction system

PACQUIAO

SALUD

By Recah Trinidad

A REVIEW AND REVISION OF THE controversial system applied in world professional boxing is imperative following the latest misunderstanding that enveloped Tuesday's fierce Manny Pacquiao-Juan Manuel Marquez fight, Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose Cojuangco Jr. said Wednesday.

Cojuangco, who is also president of the Philippine Boxing Federation, said he will ask Philippine Sports Commission chairman Harry Angeles to call a meeting of the country's boxing officials to discuss the issue.

"We have to review the system because it's not fair to the boxers," Cojuangco said in a telephone interview. "We have to study it and see what we can do to improve it."

Cojuangco's statement came in the wake of the controversial split decision that went in favor of Marquez, who was declared the winner by two judges despite being knocked down three times by Pacquiao in the first round.

Cojuangco said he will also ask

Tioseco keys big WPBL start by Ateneo

By Jasmine W. Payo

CUTTING A TOWERING FIGURE ON the hard court, Cassandra Tioseco was an unchallenged force as Mater Ó Ateneo dominated the inaugural outside of the Premier's Philippine Basketball League.

The Lady Eagles sweaty past the Stanford La Salle Lady Archers, 80-46, as Tioseco unleashed a double-double performance of 22 points and 23 rebounds on Saturday night at the Ynares Sports Center in Pasig City.

Scoring mostly on inside-post stabs and easy putbacks, the six-foot Tioseco buried eight points in the first 10 minutes to power the Lady Eagles to a 21-7 spread.

Marylyn Montero also chipped in eight in the opening stretch to finish with 14 markers on top of eight boards.

"Right now we have dependable players inside and outside, that's the advantage," said Ateneo coach Haydee Ong.

Tioseco, the Most Valuable Player during Ateneo's 2007 UAAP title run, also had four blocks and two steals.

"We know La Salle's primary scorers, like [Sherwi] Ortiza and [Angeli] Glasani," said Ong. "Our game plan was to stop them from scoring. We played good defense against them."

Aside from posting a paltry 27 percent shooting slip, the Lady Archers were also outrebounded 48-37.

"It's good to be back playing for Ateneo," said Tioseco, who suited up for the Philippine team that captured the bronze medal in the 2007 SEA Games.

Dindo Bonifacio, backstopped by the scoring-ringing UAAP champion for Ateneo University, will back off to bid against guest squad Discovery-DP women's team on 1 p.m. tomorrow.

NOIS STOP—OUCH! Striker Carlos Esquivel of Toluca controls the ball during a Mexican League championship soccer match against arch rival Tigres at the Universitario stadium in Monterrey Saturday. Esquivel dropped to the ground after the painful stop. AFP/TMC

RP cagebelles gain a crack at Malaysians

MEDAN, INDONESIA—THE STRIKE-PHILippine women clobbered host Indonesia, 83-68, Saturday to keep alive its hope of securing up to Level 3 in the 19th Fiba Asia under-18 ladies championship here.

The RP belles wound up second in Level 1 and gained a playoff berth against Level 1 fifth placer Malaysia yesterday.

The playoff winner will be promoted to the elite group in the next edition of the tournament in 2010.

With key players Erin Bermundo and Angelica Ortega doubtful starters due to injuries, FP coach Raymond Cella said they will be facing tall odds against the bigger Malaysian team. He didn't rule out an upset, though.

The FP girls, backed by Jhonne Magic Sing, finished second at 4-1 behind undefeated in Level II and eighth overall winning the Level I competition featuring China, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

It's the best finish by the country since placing third out of only four teams in the fifth edition in 1978 in Manila.

Perennial champion China and Japan were to fight for the crown also yesterday.

Bulira Rose Palmera scored a game-high 22 points while Kat Gaudel came through with a double-double performance of 19 points and 17 rebounds against the Indonesians.

Kazakhstan scored a five-game sweep for the Level II gold medal and also gained a playoff shot at the elite group against India, Thailand's came in third (3-2) followed by Indonesia (2-3), Hong Kong (1-4) and Singapore (0-5).

Cindy Brunday and Agatha Marie Ramos also put in significant numbers for the Strike-RP squad which took the opening quarter, 21-15, led 39-31 after the third period.

Also in the FP girls squad:

Highers JL Jarold 11, Mendiz 14, Alcaraz 11, Jo Garcia 6, Ambosa 2, Bernardo 13, Alap 2. Leaptakers:

Cojuangco bats for early Laos SEA Games buildup

By Jane Makayo

COJUANGCO

NATIONAL SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS TAKING part in the 2009 Southeast Asian Games in Laos will have to burn their boats right after the SEA Games Federation Council pegs the total number of events this week.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco said the NSAs should immediately identify their candidates for the biennial meet and train them soonest for the 2009 Games.

Cojuangco said he's betting for an early perspiration as to improve the country's sixth-place finish in the 2007 edition of the Games held in Thailand.

He noted that Team Philippines was banned just three months before the 2007 Games.

The SEA Games Council will finalize the number of events in a marathon meeting starting tomorrow in Hanoi with athletes' president Go Teng Kok and vendor's Julian Camacho representing the country.

So far, only 22 sports have been approved by the council, with the Philippines fighting for the inclusion of five more —basketball, archery, cycling, dragon boat and weightlifting.

"They [NSAs] will be required to identify early and provide a list of the athletes whom they feel have strong chances of winning," said Cojuangco. "These athletes will train specifically for the SEA Games while the NSA will identify other athletes for other international tournaments. We should choose athletes who are dedicated and have the will to do well."

New Hair by

Dr. Pineda will be in Davao from Nov. 17 to 19 (hour: - ward.)
For consultations, Please Call Today.

PinedaHair

MAKATI
Medical Towers Makati
Ayala Ave., Makati City

DAVAO
Holiday Arcade, 27th Street
Obrero Street, Davao City

(02) 811-0051

(082) 221-3003

www.pinedahair.com

NPC Stakes debut in Marho Week

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

AS A FITTING TRIBUTE TO THE MEMbers of the National Press Club, the Philippine Boxing Commission is sponsoring the 1st NPC Stakes race on Friday, Nov. 22, nine days before the Manilenian Marho Boxing Cup weekend at the Santa Ana Park.

Also supported by the Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners, the proceeds from this charity event will go to the NPC Trust Fund for its various civic and community projects.

I am filled with wonder by the grit and heart of these racing people in putting this benefit project for the working press despite the hard and trying times. And I would like to thank Pidiraners chair Jose Ferdinand "Joy" Rojas II and Manila president Mandalayang Mayor Benhur Abalos for making possible this laudable undertaking.

On the opening Marho Boxing Cup Finals set for Nov. 16 to 23, Abalos said: "We are truly proud to stage this annual showcase. multi-day series that will showcase the best talents of the local boxing industry. This yearly staging of the Marho Boxing Cup is a tribute to all home owners and breeders who have supported the program through the years."

Abalos also praised the racing's full support and the sport's other direct players like the horse owners, jockeys, trainers, stable crew operators and the racing public.

Highlighting this year's Marho Boxing Cup, which makes a total cash prize of P7 million, is the Classic Championship on Nov. 23. After six top race the 2-year-old and 3-year-old Fillies and Colt Cup, Special Race and the Ambassador Edwards Cup Championship with a guaranteed purse of P 2-million.

* * *

The resurgence of fresh faces in pro billiards is a good sign. "Winners na lumang magpapaling ngayon, bilo na yung mga bata (I can see a lot of good players nowadays, especially the young ones)," "Bata said pool legend and Hall of Famer Efren "Bata" Reyes during a recent interview.

Now 54 years old, Reyes said that if we **do not want to relinquish the Philippines' hard-earned place of honor in world pool,**

we should accelerate the development of new talents who could take over" Reyes hint and the other players, who are also not getting any younger, when the time comes for them to permanently sheath their cues.

Popularly known as "The Magician" to pool circles, Reyes is aiming from competing in the First Senate President Manny Villar Cup Standard leg on Nov. 12 to 16 at the Goldcredit Multi Commercial Complex in Bacoor, Cavite.

Also in the elite field are world-class foreign players led by Ko Ping-chung of China, who is a former World Cup of Pool co-champion; Filipino co-world champions Alex Pagulayan and Ronnie Alcano; world No. 1 Dennis Orcollo, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Gar San Cornea and previous Villar Cup leg-winners Warren Kiamco Oliveros, Candy Valle Rubio, Rustal Gallego Baluran and 2008 World 9-Ball runner-up Roberto Gomez Jr.

The top purse up for grabs is $15,000.

The blue-ribbon event is organized by the Billiards Managers and Players Association of the Philippines headed by Rogen Pamintuan, Poiyet Aguirre and Jonathan Uy's Sagana Billiards Hobby.

* * *

Congratulations to an esteemed friend, Tony Chua, the Red Bull representative and past chair of the PBA board, for being named manager of the national team that will see action in the Fiba qualifying tournament for the World Championship next year.

Congratulations, too, to Shimbashi's (Meiyomatsu branch) Evelyn M. Rueda on her new assignment and Gwen Mark Medina for his very accommodating and helpful ways. May your tribe increase.

CHERY

QQ THREE CHEERS PROMO

In celebration of the Grand Opening of the
CHERY CENTRAL AFTER SALES SERVICE CENTER
AND TRAINING CENTER FOR SOUTHEAST ASIAN PACIFIC REGION

FREE
• LTO REGISTRATION FOR 3 YEARS
• INSURANCE FOR 1 YEAR
• MP3 PLAYER

Get Special Deals
for every purchase of Chery QQ

QQ .8 AMT
SRP PHP 373,000

QQ 1.1 MT
SRP PHP 349,000

Pre-war Green Archers standout Valdes, 88

GAVINO L. VALDES, A MEMBER OF THE LA Salle Green Archers' MCAA championship team in 1938, passed away on Saturday night at St. Luke's Hospital in Quezon City. He was 88.

Valdes, who played with Ateneo La Salle stalwarts Tito Valles and Leo Prieto, served as Philippine ambassador to the Vatican, Greece and Japan. He was also a member of the 1971 constitutional convention. His body lies in state at the La Salle Green Hills chapel.

SPORTS

Calzaghe whips Jones in 'final' bout

NEW YORK—UNDEFEATED WELSH titan Joe Calzaghe overcame a first-round knockdown to beat Roy Jones Jr. in a bloody, unanimous decision Saturday night, delighting a raucous crowd at Madison Square Garden in what Calzaghe claims will be his final bout.

There is little left for him to prove after toppling as super middleweight champion for more than a decade, outlifting the division, defeating Bernard Hopkins and now felling Jones—possibly punishing him right into retirement as well.

"This year I just beat two legends, with Hopkins and Jones, and I came to the United States to do it," Calzaghe said. "I took the risk. They didn't come to me. I took the risk, and tonight I came in New York to do it."

With Manning hand spread of his own and a constant push forward, Calzaghe (46-0) opened a deep gash over Jones' left eye in the seventh round, forcing the ringside doctor to take a close look at it. The bout was allowed to continue, blood flowing down Jones' face, but it hardly mattered after that.

"Super" Joe looked bested again.

All three judges scored the fight 116-109 for Calzaghe, as did The Associated Press, every round going to him after the first.

"The three judges were harder than I thought," Jones said. "He definitely won the fight."

"I felt really relaxed tonight with my hands at my side," Calzaghe said. AP

JOE Calzaghe hits Roy Jones Jr. during the eighth round of their light heavyweight match.

Brand New Ride with Kia's Trade-Up Deals

Columbian Autocar Corporation (CAC), sole distributor of Kia vehicles in the country, continues to make driving home a brand new Kia Picanto, Rio, Sportage, Sorento, Carens, Carnival or K2700 so easy with the Kia Trade-Up Deals. Kia's Trade-Up Program allows you to bring home your perfect Kia without the hassle of selling your current vehicle. Kia helps by taking in your vehicle, in good running condition, and applying the approved appraised value to your brand new Kia. It's that easy!

Kia's Trade-Up Deals have grown in popularity in the local automotive market since it was introduced early this year. Aside from shortening the selling and buying process to upgrade your ride, the program has been supported by Kia's stylish line of fuel-efficient models.

Kia has continued to turn the market in its favor, earning a sales growth of up to 70% in year to year comparison. Its aggressive campaign to build its brand has paid off with more and more car owners believing in the Kia badge and what it stands for – quality, service and efficiency. With the over all cost of living increasing rapidly practically has been prioritized and value for money has never been more important. And Kia has successfully provided solutions to these concerns.

Likewise, Kia's commitment to provide its clients with a totally positive experience is reflected in the expansion program of its dealership and service network. To date, Kia has over 50 sales outlets nationwide 20 of which include service centers. This way, each Kia vehicle on the road is given proper attention when needed.

This holiday season, why not surprise yourself and drive home a brand new Kia and experience the true joy of driving. Visit your nearest authorized Kia dealership and test drive a Kia today.

For more information about Kia, its models and services, please visit www.kia.com.ph.

LeBron, Cavs toy with Bulls again

CHICAGO—LEBRON JAMES HAS defenders coming at him from all angles and did what he normally does. He made them look invisible.

James ran rings around Chicago again, scoring 41 points for the second time in four days, and the Cleveland Cavaliers hung on to beat the Bulls, 106-97, on Saturday night.

The one-time after a big performance in a 122-97 win over Chicago at home Wednesday night. James scored the first eight points of the fourth to start a 13-0 run as the Cavaliers rumbled to three-point defeat that's an 89-77 lead. And he hit two key three-pointers with the defense on him after Chicago cut it to two in the closing minutes.

"When you come into somebody's building and make big shots like that to get it done, those are big smiles to my face," said James, who hit four of seven three-pointers after going 1 for 19 through the first six games. "That's just how I've been playing lately. I've just been trying to keep a smile on my face and don't have to be the same way."

It was a difficult night for the Bulls, who learned guard Kirk Hinrich will miss up to three months with a thumb injury. Andres Nocioni's triple made it 96-90 with 3:38 left and two more jumpers by Ben Gordon made it 96-94 with 2:13 remaining, but the Bulls simply could not pull it out.

James answered with a three-pointer from the wing and, after two free throws by Gordon, struck again from long range, hoping after the shot went in. That made it 102-96, with 1:26 remaining, and the Cavaliers, running off a 111-107 victory over Indiana on Friday night, hung on from there.

LEBRON James goes to the basket past Tyrus Thomas.

James scored 16 points in the fourth quarter and sneezed up with 30 or more against Chicago for the seventh straight time. He has 13 of 29 shots and grabbed 12 rebounds. AP

STAR RESULTS: Toronto 106, Washington 91; New Orleans 102, Miami 88; Indiana 88, New Jersey 80; Phoenix 124, Milwaukee 98; and Boston 101, Memphis 92.

Djokovic, Davydenko take opener

SHANGHAI—NOVAK DJOKOVIC EDGED rival Marat Safin on Sunday, overcoming a rash of errors to beat the former's fans Martin del Potro, 7-5, 5-3, in the season-ending tournament's opening round robin match.

Russia's Nikolay Davydenko used his devastating ground game to rally past Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France, 6-7 (6), 6-4, 7-6 (6), in the other Gold group match.

Djokovic failed to win a set last year in three matches, citing exhaustion from a heavy schedule in his rise to No. 3 in the world. The Serb also lost to the

NOVAK Djokovic, jinx ends

eventual champion Safin in the round of 16 in his past two tournaments and said Saturday that he was having trouble finding his rhythm.

"I was a bit intimidated by the fact of not winning a single match last year, that's for sure," Djokovic said. "But this year is different. I have more confidence, stronger, more resistant."

Djokovic started strongly breaking del Potro for a 3-1 lead. Then his serve and strategy let him down when serving for the first set at 5-3. He double-faulted to give del Potro breakpoint, then weakly dumped a backhand drop shot attempt into the net to put the match back on serve.

A debreaker loomed until del Potro earned a forehand while serving at 5-6, 30-30. The Argentine, the youngest player here at 20, had Djokovic long-ball him side to side on the next point only to see the Serb muscle a backhand crosscourt winner to take the set.

Del Potro, who has been nursing a sore toe since the US Open, was left to lament what might have been.

"When you play against (Rafael) Nadal, (Roger) Federer or Djokovic, you have just one chance or two. I had a breakpoint. I didn't get it." AP

ATTENTION! Hairpiece & Hair "System" Wearers!

Like the feeling of "wearing something" on your head!
Tired of tape and glue, clips weaves, etc.!
Want to see just hair and scalp without surgery?

845-0879
924-1894
All About Hair

Wilson eyes first major win, leads Ogilvy by 1

SHANGHAI, CHINA—A SUBPAR 66 in the Ryder Cup rain months ago, England's Oliver Wilson is just 36 holes away from the first significant tournament victory of his career.

The turnaround could come in the final round of the HSBC Champions on Monday, Rain washed out play Friday, delaying the third round—and a few holes of the fourth—until Sunday.

Wilson shot a 3-under 69 for a three-round total of 12-under 204. He parred the first two holes of the fourth round before play was halted by darkness.

Australia's Geoff Ogilvy and American Phil Mickelson both shot a 2-under 70 to the third round, pairing them one and two strokes back, respectively.

Sergio Garcia and Henrik Stenson both had even par 72s and both managed three-shot round holes, finishing the day at 10-under and 9-under, respectively.

"Anytime you're in the lead, it's got to be the best place to be," said Wilson, who teamed up with Stenson in the Ryder Cup to beat a team of Mickelson and Anthony Kim in foursomes.

"It (the Ryder Cup) has proved to me and everyone else that I can do it when it matters," added Wilson, who has three second-tier European tour titles on his résumé but has yet to win there.

After three days of wet conditions, Sunday was dry cool and windy at the Sheshan Golf Club on the outskirts of Shanghai.

British Open champ tops Mizuno

In Shizuo, Japan, women's British Open champion Shin Ji-yai of South Korea shot a 5-under 67 to win the LPGA Mizuno Open by one stroke and finish at 13-under 203 at the Kintetsu Kashikojima Country Club course.

Mayu Hamada of Japan was second at 9-under 207 after a final round 71. AP

Venus-Zvonareva duel up

DOHA, QATAR—SERENA WILLIAMS AS-sured to the final of the Sony Ericsson Championships with a 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 win Saturday over top-ranked Jelena Jankovic.

Williams will face Vera Zvonareva, the Beijing Olympics champion from Russia (Jankovic's 7-6 (7), 3-6, 6-3, in the other semifinal at the WTA Tour's season-ending event.

Williams saved three break opportunities when winning a grueling service game in the third set to go up 4-2. That game also featured a 30-stroke rally, the longest of the 2-hour, 11-minute match. She went on to clinch the victory with a backhand crosscourt winner on her first match point.

The American played dominating tennis in the first set, but made more errors in the second as Jankovic dictated play with her opponent's serve. After broke Williams to lead 4-2, and closed out the set with relative ease.

The eighth-seeded Williams improved her record against Jankovic to 4-1. The Serb will still end the year as No. 1.

The ninth-ranked Zvonareva, the lowest-ranked player in the eight-woman field, lost semifinal loss at the Beijing Olympics. AP

WILLIAMS

ZVONAREVA

BUSINESS

Alice Reid O. Marcelo • Aurora Lilia Cerra S. Nariana

Drastic drop in remittances seen

Crisis in West may result in mass job cuts, says UBS

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES MAY SEE A stark slowdown in remittances from overseas Filipino workers next year due to the anticipated contraction in the economies of the United States and parts of Europe, but this won't necessarily bring down the country's current account balance.

According to investment bank UBS (Union Bank of Switzerland), there is even reason to fear that remittances may not grow next year because of the crisis in the West, which can result in mass layoffs.

The United States and Europe are two major destinations of Filipino workers.

"Given our projection of the worst global growth environment since the early 1980s, it is quite easy to see how the Philippine remittance flows could see some declines in 2009," the investment research unit of UBS said in a paper entitled "Philippines Remittances in Context."

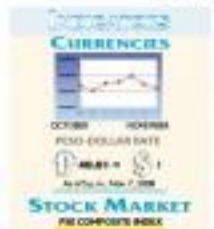
UBS noted that remittances already slowed down to a 10-percent growth to P1.3 billion in August from a high of 25-percent rate (for comparison) months.

Analysts said the degree of slowdown could be even worse in September, when the financial crisis in the United States took a turn for the worse with the loss of two venerable Wall Street institutions.

Analysts believe that the US financial crisis has already evolved into a full-blown economic crisis, spilling over to other parts of the globe. They expect the economies of the United States and parts of Europe to suffer heavy year-on-year contraction in 2009.

Being a major source of dollars, remittances greatly affect the Philippines' current account balance.

(WAITING) 88



Complete market report on Page B2

Positive trade expected

BROKERS EXPECT MORE POSITIVE trading activity this week after the selling spree seen in the past four weeks.

"I think investors will be more bullish about the market this week since prices have already reached oversold levels," Login Equities Inc. president Joseph Yuvas said.

Citimotive.com vice president Consuelo Ibale also said investors would likely be more optimist this week as most of the negative economic data coming out in the US had been "priced in."

The election of a new US president failed to sustain Wall Street's rally earlier last week as investors saw lackluster Barack Obama could pack up the battered pieces of the US economy and recover, AB Capital Securities cashier, a weekly research report.

Wire agencies on the other hand reported US stocks rose Friday as investors picked up shares at multiyear lows even

POSITIVE 88

IN THIS ISSUE

FAO warns of rise in food prices /B9

PLDT smenation Count on me, partner.

Page 01

Partners Respond to Challenging Times

SME Nation and PCCI in sync

Gov't debt stock breached P4-T mark in Aug.

By Michelle V Remo

THE GOVERNMENT'S DEBT STOCK reached P4.024 trillion in August, up 1.5 percent from P3.966 trillion in end-July, the Bureau of the Treasury reported on Friday.

The increase was attributed to the weakening of the peso against the dollar, which boosted the peso value of dollar-denominated liabilities, and the rise in domestic borrowing in August.

Of the amount, domestic debt accounted for almost P2.56 trillion, up from the end-July level of about P2.54 trillion.

The BTr said new domestic borrowings in August, incurred through the sale of treasury bills and bonds, were higher than the amount of domestic debt paid during the month.

Foreign currency denominated debt as of end-August amounted to P1.465 trillion. This was 2.3 percent higher than the P1.428 trillion recorded in the previous month.

The BTr said the impact of the peso weakening to the government's debt position was "severe" that it could not be offset by the government's efforts to increase payments of foreign obligations.

Records showed that the foreign obligations settled by the government in August were P5 billion more than the borrowings it incurred during the period.

The rise in the government debt stock was even tempered by the net appreciation of third currencies, such as the yen and the euro, against the dollar it helped reduce the government's debt stock by P12 billion.

The appreciation of third currencies against the dollar allowed the government to set aside less pesos to settle foreign debts denominated in currencies other than the dollar.

However, the BTr said, the depreciation of the peso against the dollar added P55 billion to the government's debt stock, making up the positive effects of net repayments and the appreciation of third currencies against the dollar.

Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that the peso closed at 51.565 against the dollar in the last trading day of August, weaker than the 49.34 closing in July.

Analysts blamed the growing risk aversion for the weakening peso. Because of the ongoing financial turmoil, a consequence of the weakening economies of the United States and Europe, investors were pulling out funds – including those invested in emerging economies like the Philippines.

In the meantime, the BTr also reject of that the government's contingent debt rose to P509 billion in end-August, up from P502 billion a month ago.

This, it said, was also due to the depreciation of the peso against the dollar, as some government-owned and – controlled corporations also had dollar-denominated debts.

Contingent debt is the continued liabilities of government firms that carry sovereign guarantees.

Is an Obama presidency bad for our economy?

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

AMID ALL THE JUBILATION THAT HAS widely greeted the historic election of America's first African-American President, not a few in the developing world are worried or at the very least, rather their ambivalent with some apprehension. The fear stems from President-elect Barack Obama's many campaign statements that seemed to "bring the jobs back home" for American workers.

Many in India, in particular, had closely watched his campaign and examined every statement he had made on the issue. What particularly struck Indians was Obama's repeated lament on how American jobs have been "Bangalored," presumably alluding to that Indian city's prominence in India's outsourcing industry, particularly in information technology. If the Indians, whose outsourcing industry depends on the United States for 68 percent of the business, are fearful, shouldn't we in the Philippines, where our own nascent outsourcing industry has its own bigger (61.5%) percentage dependence on the United States, worry even more?

Senator from Punjab

Sen. Hillary Clinton, by the way, was much more acceptable to the Indians several years ago when she was still a senator from New York, but since then Punjabi, Hillary-along, she has turned anti-outsourcing. "I can never vote for the Senator from Punjab and vote easily."

The Obama campaign subsequently circulated an "off the record" memorandum to journalists entitled "Hillary Clinton: El Paisajo's Personal Financial and Political Ties," with the all-caps "Economic Punjab" joke here politely discussed and apologized for by Obama. Still, the incident underscored what appeared to be a major policy difference between Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, with the latter appearing as "anti-outsourcing." Notwithstanding that, the Democratic Party is said to be broadly committed to outsourcing, but with a caveat: It does not "believe in tax giveaways that reward companies for creating American jobs overseas."

Carrots, not sticks

But "safe" stance is, in fact, reflected in the many statements Obama has made on the issue throughout his campaign. Typical of Obama's statements on the issue was what he said in a campaign speech in Dublin, Ohio: "We're going to take away tax breaks to companies that ship jobs overseas. We will give them to companies that invest right here." In Colorado, he said: "I've proposed a new American jobs tax credit for each new employee that companies hire here in the United States over the next two years."

Actually, US economists and legal advisers point out that there are no tax breaks enjoyed specifically by firms that outsource. They believe that Obama may be alluding to broader tax avoidance strategies, such as the ability of multinational firms to legally avoid taxes on profits by moving money overseas. Thus, his position really boils down to offering "carrots" in the form of tax incentives for US firms to keep jobs at home.

Some analysts believe that such tax incentives would have little real impact. Very plans for a tax code change are like trying to plug a hole in a leaky dam with your finger—as believe (that) the US government tax code penalizes outsourcing is a major misconception. ..," according to Joe Grove, director of Caribbean State University-Fullerton's Center for the Study of Emerging Markets. And tax incentives to keep jobs in the United States may not do it. Nelson Cu, recently chairs to give up work for breaks it was already working in Florida, where it decided to outsource to a trade-based firm.

Manufacturing, not IT

He may have overstated Bangalore, but does Obama really have the IT and business process outsourcing industry in mind when he talks about cashing outsourcing? He Obama speech mentioned above was prefaced as follows: "You are working harder and harder just to get by. Tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands of manufacturing jobs have left." He was, in that instance, talking about manufacturing jobs lost as American firms relocate production operations abroad. Similarly, in Iowa, he said: "We may not be able to stop a company from moving, but we can stop providing it incentives to move." He was talking of companies moving, i.e., transplanting their core operations abroad, not companies—those who simply outsource their accounting, or transcription of records, or other backroom business processes to BPO firms in India or the Philippines. In that case there is nothing for us to lose, then, as there is little of American manufacturing activity in the country that we stand to lose in the game.

The media have assessed that Barack Obama won the US Presidency because the American people believed he would be the one who could fix the US economy which 80 percent of Americans identified as be the foremost challenge facing them today. With that hope, the current euphoria over his victory, and the international congratulations, chances are he will eventually succeed. In the end, a reinvigorated US economy will be good for the Philippine economy, too, just as it would be for everyone else. It's to that way that an Obama presidency would, in fact, be good for our economy.

Comments and... cfabito@gmail.com

Omico files plea vs SEC

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lorzano

OMICO CORP. HAS ASKED THE COURT OF Appeals to stop the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) from acting on the intracorporate dispute hounding the mining company.

Omico's petition for the issuance of a temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction was filed before the Court of Appeals last Friday and it questioned the SEC's authority to issue last Oct. 31 a cease and desist order against the company.

In its CDO, the SEC directed Omico to refrain from including commercial premises leased in favor of Omico president Tranny Ric Hing. Tin to entertain a quorum and elect members of the board during the company's stockholders' meeting last Nov. 3.

Cited as respondents in Omico's petition, except of which were furnished the Securities, were the SEC and brokerage firm metro Securities Corp. of erstwhile broker and Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) director William Ong.

DOOR ACCESS CONTROL
SY110
P15,000
VIVITEK PROJECTORS
FOR ONLY
P28,500
SECURITY SYSTEMS
MUSTARD Seed
Commercial lot for Sale or Gas Station
located in San Antonio
Ampid Pamparog
15,852 sqm
ZIM Negotiable
Hitachi Raised Floor System
EASY TO INSTALL
LOW PRICE
One-in-IT, CALL
CENTER G.EAN RM
Fabricator of Bakery & Stainless Steel Food Service Equipment.
We also Service & Repair other Brands/Make.

Investment Funds	Net Asset Value Per Unit (NAVPU) as of 10/31/08	Net Asset Value Per Unit (NAVPU) as of 10/30/08
Philamlife Equity Fund	1.2165	1.2026
Philamlife Fixed Income Fund	1.3675	1.3798
Philamlife Balanced Fund	0.9642	0.7156
Philamlife Dollar Bond Fund	1.2642	1.2884
Philamlife Global Bond Fund	1.0286	1.0702

GOLFERS CLUB SHARES, INC.

There is ONLY ONE
ONE-HOUR CREMATOR
ONLY 35 LITERS PER CHARGE FROM Portugal
WORLD'S BEST CREMATOR
NOW, Proven in the Philippines!
3 years of worry-free operation
fastest safest lightest most portable
most energy-efficient most eco-friendly
most elegantly designed engineered
save operating & maintenance cost! CALL (02)8373879 | (0915)4540111

BRIDGESTONE
SHUFFLE YOUR WAY TOWARDS A
FREE iPOD
AVAIL OF BRIDGESTONE'S TIRES & TUNES PROMO NOW!
Make your driving experience even more enjoyable by getting an Apple iPod Shuffle (1 GB) absolutely FREE for every purchase of four (4) pieces of Bridgestone passenger car tires (Turanza GR80, Turanza ER60, Turanza AR10, MY01 and all Potenza line of tires rim 15" and above).
From August 15 to December 31, 2008 at all participating Bridgestone dealers nationwide.

Ayala starts offering shares

GMA-7 upgrading to cost P200M

TELEVISION GIANT GMA NETWORK IS spending more than P200 million for the purchase of transmitters and other facilities to improve the network's signal in key provinces nationwide.

In a statement, GMA Network said the projects were in line with its target of dominating TV ratings nationwide, after the company clinched the lead in TV ratings in Mega Manila as well as in northern, Central and Southern Luzon.

"We are confident that once we have finished all our signal upgrade projects by the registry, our TV ratings in key regional areas will improve as our superior programs will be better appreciated by viewers nationwide," GMA chair Felipe L. Gozon said.

In Bonbon, Cebu City, GMA spent P68.8 million to acquire a new transmitter for higher on-air availability. It was commissioned on Oct. 6.

Tower reinforcement is being done in Davao and a new antenna system will be acquired for GMA's originating station in the area. Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

Raising funds for eTelecare bid, other BPO projects

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

AYALA CORP. WILL START ON Wednesday (Nov. 12) the offering of eight million nonvoting class A preferred shares.

The conglomerate hopes to generate P8 billion from the shares offering, which would be invested in its business process outsourcing (BPO) projects.

In its prospectus filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange, Ayala said it had the option to increase the size of the offering by another four million preferred shares.

The shares are offered for P500 apiece.

The offer period will start at 9 a.m. on Nov. 12 and end at 5 p.m. on Nov. 18.

Of the expected proceeds, about P4.610 billion or P4.32 billion would be spent in the first half of 2009 for Ayala's plan to take over Manila-listed eTelecare Global Solutions Inc.

About P3.63 billion would be invested in Ayala BPO unit Affinity Express Inc., Integrated Managed Solutions Inc. and other BPO firms.

Ayala plans to make a tender offer for almost all of eTelecare's shares.

The company and its private equity firm Powerhouse Equity Partners are planning to take over eTelecare by offering to buy out its minority shareholders for P295 million. Ayala's share in the planned investment was given as P100 million.

With respect to Affinity and Integrated Solutions, both owned by the conglomerate, Ayala will provide capital of $8.25 million and $14.1 million, respectively.

Ayala has tapped stone firm BPI Capital Corp. to be the issue manager and lead underwriter of the offering.

Ayala said it remained bullish on its BPO investments. It has so far invested $120 million in this sector since 2006, mainly through building from Livelt Investment.

Meltdown seen to offer 'best buying chance in a generation'

By Dmitri L. Lanza

THE ONGOING GLOBAL FINANCial meltdown has presented investors with "the best buying opportunity in a generation," according to stock market watchers, although they argued that the coming rebound would not be for those with weak stomachs.

According to Citicorp Online president Consuelo Ruiz, the potential returns that the present market environment provides is a rare chance for those who are brave enough to start buying stocks.

"We will not see an opportunity like this again in our lifetime," he told a forum in Makati City sponsored by the Mutual Fund Management Company of the Philippines. "Maybe our children would see one again, but probably not us."

A stock market veteran, Ruiz urged would-be investors to remember that bear share trades in the Philippine Stock Exchange had involved—and even flourished—after going through severe crises.

As far as the Philippine economy and business environment are concerned, he said the ongoing turmoil was not as bad as that caused by the 1997 Asian financial crisis, although he conceded there were parallels that could be explained by investors.

"The average prices on the [local stock] market are now as cheap as they were in 1987, but the economy is a lot better," the Citicorp chief noted.

The benchmark PSE index has so far dropped by 53 percent since the start of the year, mainly in sympathy to the global market turmoil, as foreign and local investors dull their funds to more defensive asset classes like bonds, money market placements and even cash.

Ruiz cautioned, however, against complacency or even outright optimism, according to historical data that showed how stock prices had gained wildly during bear markets.

He predicted that prices of local stocks would soon find a temporary bottom and stage a sharp rally that would last for about three months, based on the experience of past recoveries.

Once this is exhausted, the "harsh economic realities" that companies are finding it harder to do business will set in, causing investors' optimism to evaporate, Ruiz said.

At that point, prices will go lower although at a slower pace for a few months before the real stock market bottom is formed.

Despite the gut-wrenching gyrations of late, Ruiz said stocks remained the best bet for investors over the long term, compared to any other asset class.

"If you look at the last 17 years, stocks have risen by an average of 19 percent each year, including bear market periods," he said.

In the same forum, ATR-Kimeng economist and research head Luz Lawsure explained that the Philippine economy is more resilient in the face of the global financial crisis than it was in 1997.

In particular, she pointed to the country's foreign debt profile which, she said, has been managed by the government prudently since then.

The Philippines is still a concern, but it is a lot better now," she added. "While the latest [budget] deficit's number is bigger than what it was [in the same period] last year, it is still at less than 1 percent of GDP [gross domestic product, or the total value of local economic output]."

Positive trade expected

From page 4

after employers slashed October payrolls by an unexpectedly severe 240,000.

Analysts said the market had already taken into account the bad news in the government's October jobs report.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose by 240.14 points, or 2.85 percent, to end unofficially at 8,941.89, based on the latest data posted on Inquirer.net.

Brokers also said investors could track more announcements of third quarter profits as index heavyweights Ayala Corp. and SM Investments release their financial statements this week.

So far, third quarter earnings have been mixed.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., the largest company in terms of market capital, reported third quarter net profit fell 21 percent on higher costs and slowing revenue growth due to delay inflation, news-wires reported.

Metro Club Shares
Tel.: 890.GOLF(4653)
Fax: 890.4655
G&W stockbrokers
PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE
Tel. 8504151-62
(0917)5357780
PSE CLUB SHARES SPECIALIST, INC.
Maybank

Omico . . .

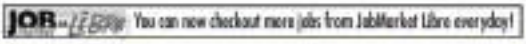
Continued from page B1

Omico said the SEC's CEO was a "blatant contravention" of Republic Act No. 8799 and that the SEC's power as more CEOs to protect the investing public had already been transferred to the regional trial court.

Astra president William Ang, meanwhile, said he has a copy of the petition and was preparing to cite Omico.

Astra also filed a complaint with the SEC against Omico and directors Mario Ey Rosario, Salomon Cua, Juan Nicolas, Antonio Lopa, Wilfredo Sanchez, Basilio Yong, Nora Mei Tia and Tommy Tia.

Astra urged the SEC to cite respondents for indirect contempt for "openly and maliciously defying" the watchdog's CEO when they included the contested proxies of Tia in the meeting's quorum for the Nov. 5 stockholders' meeting.



NOTICE TO COMMON STOCKHOLDERS OF ETELECARE GLOBAL SOLUTIONS, INC.

ETE Acquisition Co LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("**ETEC**"), jointly owned by affiliates of Apax Corporation ("**Apax**") and Providence Equity Partners Inc. ("**Providence**"), is filing on November 10, 2008 a Tender Offer Report on Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission ("**Philippine SEC**") Form 19-1, pursuant to Section 19 of the Philippine Securities Regulation Code, for the purpose of purchasing all of the issued and outstanding common shares, par value PhP1.00 per share (the "**Common Shares**") of eTelecare Global Solutions, Inc., a Philippine corporation (the "**Company**"), and all American Depositary Shares of the Company, each representing one Common Share (the "**ADSs**" and, together with the Common Shares, the "**Shares**"), at a price per Share of $5.00 in cash (the "**Offer Price**"), without interest thereon and less any required taxes or costs. The Purchaser (as defined below), the Company or any person acting jointly may be required to deduct or withhold, in accordance with applicable law or rules, including payment of any stock transaction taxes, brokers' commissions and other fees customarily for the account of a seller in connection with the "crossing" of the Common Shares on the Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc. ("**PSE**"), as set out in the Summary of Terms of the Tender Offer Letters A-4 of the Application to Sell Common Shares, which is Exhibit E-4 of the Philippine SEC Form 19-1).

The Offer Price is subject to the terms and conditions specified in the Offer to Purchase, dated November 10, 2008, which is Exhibit E of the Philippine SEC Form 19-1 (as may be amended or supplemented from time to time, the "**Offer to Purchase**") and the related Application to Sell Common Shares and ADS Letter of Transmittal (collectively and as may be amended or supplemented from time to time, the "**Acceptance Forms**" which, together with the Offer to Purchase, constitute the "**Offer**"). Prior to the consummation of the Offer, ETEC intends to assign all its rights and obligations with respect to the Offer to a newly formed Philippine corporation formed for the purpose of purchasing the Shares tendered in the Offer, such newly formed corporation to be directly or indirectly owned by the same affiliates of Providence and Apax as ETEC (the "**Philippine Purchaser**"). Any assignment by ETEC of its rights and obligations in the Philippine Purchaser to purchase Shares under the Offer will not relieve ETEC of any of its obligations to the holders of Shares who have tendered their Shares in the Offer. As used herein, references to the "**Purchaser**" mean ETEC and/or the Philippine Purchaser, as applicable.

Under no circumstances will interest be paid on the Offer Price, regardless of any extension of the Offer or any delay in making payment for the Shares.

Tendering holders of Common Shares will automatically receive the Offer Price in U.S. dollars unless they make an election to receive the Offer Price in Philippine pesos. Holders of Common Shares who elect to receive the Offer Price in Philippine pesos, if the Offer is completed (i) the Offer Price will be exchanged into Philippine pesos based on the morning weighted average exchange rate for the U.S. dollar/Philippine peso announced as ASK PLT MID on the Reuters Page under PDSPESO at the close of business on the business day before the "crossing" of the Common Shares on the PSE, which is anticipated to be three business days after the Expiration Date and (ii) each tendering holder will receive the Offer Price in Philippine pesos based on such exchange rate, without a fee with respect to the conversion of U.S. dollars to Philippine pesos if PhP 40 for every $1.00. Holders of Common Shares are encouraged to consult with their advisors as to whether they should select payment in U.S. dollars or Philippine pesos.

The Offer shall commence on November 10, 2008 and will expire at 5:00 p.m. Philippine time, 5:00 a.m. New York City time, on December 15, 2008 (the "**Expiration Date**") unless the Purchaser extends the Offer, in which event the term "**Expiration Date**" means the latest time and date at which the Offer, as so extended, expires. The Purchaser reserves the right to extend the Offer with the approval of the Philippine SEC and subject to the terms of its agreement with the Company. Any such extension shall be announced by publication before the Expiration Date.

Stockholders who wish to offer all or a portion of their Common Shares for sale in the Purchaser may do so by submitting prior to the Expiration Date, a duly accomplished Application to Sell Common Shares, together with required documentary requirements to **Deutsche Regis Partners Inc.** (the "**Common Share Information and Depositary Agent**") at 37/F Tower One, Ayala Triangle, 1226 Makati City, Philippines; telephone no. (632) 894 0635, to the attention of Mr. Arnold Basali or Mr. Ash Smith Tabada.

"Long" stockholders (i.e., stockholders who hold share certificates) must submit: (i) duly accomplished Application to Sell Common Shares; and (ii) Company stock certificates duly endorsed and in the manner specified in the Professional Stock Transfer Inc., the stock transfer agent of the Company, as valid and authentic certificates. Those whose stock certificates were lost, destroyed or stolen: (i) are (1) required of a duly notarized affidavit of loss; (2) copy of the affidavit of loss as published in a newspaper of general circulation; (ii) affidavit of publication (of affidavit of loss); and (iii) bond.

"Scripless" stockholders (i.e., stockholders whose Common Shares are held by brokers under their respective Philippine Depository and Trust Corporation ("**PDTC**") accounting who wish to accept the Offer) must instruct their brokers or custodian (the "**PSE Broker**") to electronically transfer their Common Shares in the Common Share Information and Depository Agent. The PSE Broker who holders the Common Shares, should, upon receipt or knowledge of the Notice of Tender Offer to Common Stockholders of the Company, immediately notify the relevant stockholder that, should the stockholder wish to sell his/her/their Common Shares to the Company in the Purchaser, the stockholder must instruct the PSE Broker to electronically transfer his/her/their Common Shares in the Common Share Information and Depository Agent. The stockholder must instruct the PSE Broker to electronically transfer his/her/their Common Shares in the Common Share Information and Depository Agent prior to the Expiration Date. Any stockholder who wishes to tender, execute and return to the Common Share Information and Depository Agent prior to the Expiration Date an Application to Sell Common Shares in accordance with the instructions of the Application to Sell Common Shares. When tendering Common Shares, the PSE Brokers are required to submit a letter to the Common Share Information and Depository Agent in the form attached to the Philippine SEC Form 19-1 filed by the Purchaser with the Philippine SEC (or as further the Expiration Date, or will no later duly completed Application to Sell Common Shares and other documentary requirements.

For both holders of scrip and scripless Common Shares, the Application to Sell Common Shares must be submitted together with the following documentary requirements: (a) for individual stockholders, (i) for stockholders acting through an attorney-in-fact, a duly notarized Irrevocable Power of Attorney (or substantially the form attached as Annex B to the Application to Sell Common Shares); (ii) photocopies of two (2) valid identification cards describing the applicant's name and signature (i.e., passport, driver's license, SSS card, GSIS card, company ID, police clearance, postal ID and Overseas Workers card or passport); and (iii) duly accomplished signature cards containing the specimen signature of the stockholder; (b) for corporate stockholders, (i) a notarized Board Resolution (as substantially the form of the Secretary's Certificate attached as Annex C to the Application to Sell Common Shares) authorizing the sale of Common Shares, designating signatories for the purpose and indicating the specimen signatures of those signatories (the "**Secretary's Certificate**"); (ii) copy of Philippine SEC Registration as equivalent constitutive document certified as true copy of the original by the Corporate Secretary or equivalent person having official custody of company records; and (iii) copy of latest Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws as equivalent constitutive document certified as true copy of the original by the Corporate Secretary or equivalent person having official custody of company records; and (c) for partnership stockholders, (i) copy of such entity's registration or equivalent constitutive document certified as true copy of the original by the Corporate Secretary or equivalent person having official custody of partnership records; (ii) copy of latest Articles of Partnership and Partnership Agreement or equivalent constitutive document certified as true copy of the original by the Corporate Secretary or equivalent person having official custody of partnership records; and (iii) a notarized Partnership Resolution (as substantially the form of the Partner's Certificate attached as Annex D to the Application to Sell Common Shares (the "**Partners' Certificate**") authorizing the sale of Common Shares, designating signatories for the purpose and indicating the specimen signatures of those signatories.

Any Irrevocable Power of Attorney, Secretary's Certificate and Partners' Certificate executed outside the Philippines must be consularized at the appropriate Philippine consulate. Any duly accomplished Application to Sell Common Shares need not be notarized or consularized in order to be accepted by the Purchaser (as to a non-consenting person. Stockholders who intend to tender their Common Shares are encouraged to submit this process as early as possible.

The Common Shares shall be deemed accepted by the Purchaser on the Expiration Date, subject to the conditions that: (i) all the conditions of the Offer have been satisfied or such date; and (ii) the Common Share Information and Depository Agent has determined that the tendering holders of Common Shares shall have obtained all the required approvals and authorizations to enable it to transfer the Shares to the Purchaser and shall have complied with all the terms of the Offer. The foregoing conditions (other than the Minimum Tender Condition) of the Offer may be waived at the sole discretion of the Purchaser. The Minimum Tender Condition requires the Purchaser to have received, prior to the expiration of the Offer, (valid acceptances (which have not been validly withdrawn) in respect of Shares representing at least 66.67% of the Shares outstanding (on a fully diluted basis, after giving effect to exercise, conversion or termination) of all options, warrants, rights and securities convertible or exercisable into or for Shares). The Offer is not subject to any financing condition.

Acceptances of Applications to Sell Common Shares is subject to the Summary of Terms of the Tender Offer. The Purchaser, through the Common Share Information and Depository Agent, in its sole discretion, shall have the absolute right to reject any and all Applications to Sell Common Shares determined by it not to be in the proper form or the acceptance for payment of or payment for which may, in the Purchaser's opinion, be unlawful. The Purchaser also reserves the absolute right to waive any defect or irregularity in the tender of any Common Shares of any particular holder whether or not similar defects or irregularities are waived in the case of any other holder. No tender of Common Shares will be deemed to have been validly made until all defects and irregularities relating thereto have been cured or waived. Tendering holders of Common Shares whose Applications to Sell Common Shares have been rejected, in whole or in part, shall be notified of such fact by the Common Share Information and Depository Agent and the share certificates and other documents submitted will be returned as soon as possible, but in any event within ten (10) business days from the Expiration Date.

The Common Shares tendered and accepted are expected to be remitted by the PSE Broker (5 business days after the Expiration Date, subject to the approval by the PSE.

The settlement date shall be within three business days after the crossing of the Common Shares on the PSE.

Tendering holders of Shares shall have the right to withdraw any Shares tendered at any time until the Offer has expired in accordance with the procedures set forth below. In addition, unless Shares tendered pursuant to the Offer are accepted for payment by the Purchaser, such Shares may be withdrawn at any time after January 6, 2009.

For withdrawal of the Common Shares to be effective, a written or facsimile request for withdrawal specifying the original of such facsimile transmission to subsequently received by the Common Share Information and Depository Agent prior to the Expiration Date) must be received by the Common Share and Information and Depository Agent and on or before 5:00 p.m. Philippine time on the Expiration Date at the address set forth herein. The withdrawal request must specify the name, address and personal identification and/or passport number or other necessary information (as applicable) of the tendering stockholder, the number of Common Shares to be withdrawn and the name in which the share certificates are registered. Withdrawals of Shares may be effected in the Common Share Information and Depository Agent. the serial numbers shown on such certificates must be indicated in the written request. No request for withdrawal of Shares will be considered. The Purchaser, through the Common Share Information and Depository Agent, shall have the right in its sole discretion, to determine the form and validity of the notice of withdrawal, including the time of receipt thereof and such determination shall be final and binding. None of the Purchaser, the Common Share Information and Depository Agent, or any other person will be under any duty to give notification of any defects or irregularities in any notice of withdrawal nor incur any liability for failure to give any such notification.

Withdrawals may not be rescinded. Any Common Shares validly withdrawn will thereafter be deemed not to have been validly tendered for purposes of the Offer. However, withdrawn Common Shares may be re-tendered at any time prior to the Expiration Date by following one of the procedures described in the Summary of Terms of the Tender Offer.

The Board of Directors of the Company (the "**Board**") (excluding the interested director, Mr. Alfredo L. Ayala) has unanimously approved and recommended that the Company's stockholders accept the Offer and tender their Shares pursuant to the Offer. Accordingly, the Company has filed a Solicitation/Recommendation Statement on Schedule 14D-9 in relation to the Offer with the United States Security and Exchange Commission. The Solicitation/Recommendation Statement is also being filed with the Philippine SEC. (with respect to the Offer Form 19-1C. The stockholders should be aware that Mr. Alfredo L. Ayala, a director of the Company and a managing director of Apax, may have interests in the Offer that are different from or in addition to the interests of the other stockholders of the Company generally, and in a result, recused himself from all Board deliberations regarding the Offer.

J. M. Rothschild & Sons (Singapore) Limited, as financial advisor to ETEC, has confirmed that sufficient resources available to the Purchaser should be sufficient to satisfy full acceptance of the tendered Common Shares.

Stockholders are advised to read the Application to Sell Common Shares, the Summary of Terms of the Tender Offer and the Philippine SEC Form 19-1 filed by the Purchaser with the Philippine SEC. Copies of the Philippine SEC Form 19-1 and the Philippine Form 17-C referred to above shall be mailed by the Common Share Information and Depository Agent to the holders of Common Shares at their registered addresses, and are also available at the offices of the Common Share Information and Depository Agent. For queries, please call the Common Share Information and Depository Agent at the contact details indicated above.

For queries on the tender of the ADSs, ADS holders may contact Georgeson Inc., the ADS Information Agent, with address at 26/F, 199 Water Street, New York, NY 10038-3560, and telephone number at +1 (866) 875-6900 or +1 (212) 440-9800.

Fisheries sector to miss growth target for 2008

Star of agri sector loses some power due to high oil prices

By Amy R. Remo

THE FISHERIES SECTOR will not grow as fast as expected this year partly due to the adverse effects of high fuel prices on the commercial and municipal fisheries sectors.

Over the past few years, the fisheries sector posted the biggest production gains in the agriculture segment at about 5 percent a year, according to Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Director Malcolm J. Sarmiento Jr.

But with higher oil prices this year forcing many commercial fishermen to cut back on their operations, the government expects the growth to hit a maximum of just 4 percent, far short of the initial target of 11 percent.

Sarmiento said that fuel consumption alone (60-70 percent of fishermen's operating cost.

"Because it's already the lean season for captured fisheries, a lot of municipal and commercial fishermen have downed down on their operations, which is understandable. With lesser fish to catch and high fuel prices, any pricier 'maintenance would mainly erode down operations," he explained earlier.

Last year, the fisheries sector registered the biggest output gain of close to 7 percent to 4.7 million metric tons, and accounted for 23.44 percent of the total agricultural output during the period.

The year also saw its rate of breaking the 5-million MT mark this year. I think fisheries production could only reach some 4.8 million MT at most this year," Sarmiento said in an interview.

Oil prices breached the $100-a-barrel level earlier this year and hit a peak of $147 last July. World market prices have begun hemorrhaging following the US financial global financial contagion, with the per barrel cost falling to $69.38 last Dec. 31.

Sarmiento noted the sinking of the 4,400-ton MV Princess of the Stars vessel off the waters of Sibuyan Sea further aggravated the problem. Because of the "fish scare," it took a while before people began buying fish again and this meant income losses for the fisherfolk.

Coco output to come up short this year

THE COUNTRY WILL MISS ITS target coconut production this year of 2.366 million metric tons due partly to the delayed implementation of key recovery programs such as soil fertilization and tree trapping.

"The delay is mostly because of a funding problem. Funds were not being downloaded fully and on time. It was only recently that the Philippine Coconut Authority was able to download funds for its soil fertilization program," an official said in an interview.

As such, coconut output this year is estimated to hit just 2.4 million MT in copra terms, about 5 percent short of the target.

The expected output this year, however, will still beat last year's output of 2.317 million MT.

The P40-billion coconut industry is still getting back on its feet after the devastation caused by typhoons, particularly in Bicol, which was hit hard in late 2006.

In the same year, an invasive beetle (Brontispa longissima gestroi) began infesting coconut trees, damaging seedlings and mature coconut palms.

The damage then expected to cover 9 of the industry's nine out of the main regions who the Inland Coconut Commission of the Philippines earlier said that it expects to restore coconut areas this year.

In particular, Coop executive director Yvonne Agustin had said that the sector may likely raise its target coconut oil export volume this year, because there was an "over expectation on the recovery of the inland coconut production."

"Recovery for coconut sector did materialize and the export figure is seen to be still ahead than last year's but the rate of recovery was not as fast as anticipated or expected," Agustin had explained.

Meanwhile, the government official said that the coconut industry might still be able to fully recover its pre-typhoon 2005 level of 2.6 million MT by 2010 or 2011, as long as all the programs and projects that had been lined up will be fully implemented. Amy R. Remo

RP rushes to sell more sugar to US

THE SUGAR REGULATORY ADministration has begun implementing an "early export program" in a bid to ensure excess sugar from the local market.

According to SRA Administrator Rafael Coscolluela, the government has already loaded as much as 137,000 metric tons of "B" sugar or the 25 sugar quota, which are currently being shipped to Barbados.

In an interview, Coscolluela said the volume would form part of the allocation for "B" sugar for crop year 2008-2009. A sugar crop year starts on Sept. 1 and ends in August the following year.

"We swapped in A (for excess B sugar) or the sugar allocated to the domestic market. We borrowed from B and refunded it to A so we can sell sugar in the world market. We shipped from B and refunded it to A," Coscolluela explained.

Since September, two shipments have been sent to the United States and the government expects another two within the year to complete the delivery of 137,000 MT of sugar.

According to Coscolluela, the SRA is seeking approval for another shipment to the United States of at least 60,000 MT, possibly bringing total US sugar exports to an unofficial 200,000 MT.

Coscolluela said this move was necessary to siphon excess sugar from the domestic market, like the shortfall as of end August 2008, the surplus sugar is overflowing was "unconscionably big" at a hefty 833,000 MT, because the last crop year posted a 23-year record high output of 2.455 million MT.

"That's why we have low [buying] prices of sugar. I was just then informed that sugar is being bought at only P900 per 50-kilogram bag, from a high of P1,200 when milling had commenced late last year," he said.

Sugar industry leaders have repeatedly complained of the fall of sugar prices below P1,000 per bag, which is below the planters' production cost of P1,150.

Coscolluela added that sugar farmers and producers would need the buying prices to reach at least P1,150 per bag, especially since P 127,000 MT of sugar inventories, such as for them, have been rising steadily. Amy R. Remo

Kuwait-RP group keen on Batangas Port contract

By Nico T. Dichoso Jr.

A GROUP LED BY KUWAIT-PHILIPPINES firm BGU-NIH, which recently acquired Mobile Transport Services Corp., is interested in operating an international cargo terminal at the Batangas Port.

Oscar Sevilla, general manager of the Philippine Ports Authority said BGU-NIH had expressed interest in bidding for the concession at Phase II of the Batangas Port.

The PPA is working on the privatization of the Southern Luzon gateway.

BGU-NIH, which owns Inter-island shipping firm Negros Navigation, has become the dominant shipping company in the country after acquiring ATS.

For the Batangas Port concession, the Fil-Kuwaiti group will likely be facing International container Terminal Services Inc., operator of the Manila International Cargo Terminal, and Asian Terminal Inc., which holds the temporary permit to operate the Batangas Port terminal and now the Mindoro ports terminal. Both ICTSI and ATI have expressed interest in bidding for the Batangas Port concession.

"What is really crucial in the bidding is the expropriation case involving Batangas Port Phase II now with the Supreme Court. We were hoping to get the final decision last September but it's not out yet," Sevilla said.

The case stemmed from Phil-Africal to pay more than P7 billion in compensation plus interest sought by Batangas landowners, whose land was expropriated by the government for Phase II of the Batangas Port Zone project.

The amount being collected by the landowners members to P5,500 per square meter. The DOJ offered to pay only P1,000 per sq.m. since the pieces of property covered were not yet developed when they were expropriated.

In 2008, the Batangas Regional Trial Court set the compensation rate at P5,000 per sq.m. for the 1.29-million-square-meters of land covered by the 231 respondents.

The PPA questioned the Batangas RTC's compensation rate, saying it should be lower.

PPA is also wooing foreign shipping companies, such as Maersk and Evergreen Shipping Agency to call at the Batangas port so that the terminal could realize its potential capacity to handle 200,000 TEUs a year.

PPA is also working with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority and the Bureau of Customs for incentives that could be offered to the shippers.

Cut in reserve requirement a preemptive move, says BSP

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS said there was no sign the local banking sector was experiencing tightness in liquidity.

The central bank made the statement as it explained that the reverse cut in reserve requirement on banks was meant to preempt a possible credit crunch in the future.

"We are not yet there (tight credit situation), but it is better to have this preemptive measure so that when banks need liquidity, it will be available," BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo told reporters.

The BSP on Thursday approved the cut in the banks' reserve requirement from 21 to 19 percent of their deposit liabilities. Guinigundo said the move was expected to free up some P60 billion in the system.

Banks are required to allocate a portion of the deposits they collect as reserves. This is to ensure their capability to service withdrawals and to help manage supply of money in the economy.

A cut in the reserve requirement allows banks to use more funds for lending, which is expected to boost business activities. An increase in the reserve requirement tightens the supply of money and controls growth in demand, which helps to temper inflation.

Guinigundo said the easing of inflation in September and October allowed the BSP to cut the reserve requirement. The move, he said, was timely considering fears that the credit crunch being experienced in the United States and Europe might spill over to emerging economies like the Philippines.

The collapse of corporate giants like Lehman Brothers led to the tightening of credit in the US and Europe, as banks now find lending riskier because of corporate failures. Interbank lending has also become anemic in industrialized countries.

"What we (BSP) want to avert is a liquidity crunch, and we had the flexibility to cut the reserve requirement because of the continued easing of inflation," Guinigundo said.

In October, the annual inflation rate eased to 11.2 percent from 12.8 percent the previous month.

The BSP projected that inflation would continue easing in the months ahead. It expects the inflation to hit single-digit levels in the first quarter of 2009.

This projection strengthens the BSP's resolve to slash the reserve requirement.

Guinigundo said the BSP was still maintaining a neutral stance with regards to its monetary policy.

What are your obligations to your employees?

Punongbayan & Araullo

Invites you to a seminar with all the answers:

Corporate responsibilities relating to employee compensation

Labor, Social Security, PhilHealth and HDMF rules

Date: 20 November 2008, Thursday
Time: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Venue: Mahogany Room, Manila Diamond Hotel

Contents

Morning session:

1. Labor rules on compensation and other issues
   - Statutory minimum wage
   - Burden of proof rules in determining basic wage
   - Meals as overtime pay
   - Reasonable and completely objectionable relating to employment, cessation of employment, and changes in compensation
2. Philippine HMO rules and updates on mandatory contributions and claims

Afternoon session:

3. Social security obligations of employers and employees
   - Delinquencies and compliance requirements relating to contributions coverage
   - Maternity benefits
   - Salary and timing of personnel contributions
4. Social Security Act (RA 8282) coverage and contribution issues

This seminar is sponsored by the Business Support Services Division. For outsourcing requirements relating to Philippine operations and from the Department of Labor and Employment, the Philippine Social Security System, and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation.

Investment fee of P6,000 (exclusive of VAT) per person. Fee covers handouts, snacks and lunch.

Payment shall be in cash or cheque, payable to Punongbayan & Araullo and delivered to our office at the 10th Floor, Valernon Life Insurance Bldg., 6752 Ayala Ave., Makati City.

To reserve a space, contact Ms. Carmela Adviento at 893-0141 or Carmela.Adviento@pna.ph

We got so many hooked on
CAPITAL PROTECTION,
so we're extending our offer!

OFFER EXTENDED TO NOV. 26!

capital protection + unlimited returns

Locked & Loaded

For a minimum investment of ₱200,000, you can:

- Safeguard your capital from market uncertainties!
- Enjoy limitless earning potential—no caps, no boundaries!
- Get your money at full account value—no surrender fees when it's time to withdraw.
- Reap the benefits of a special Locked & Loaded fund invested in both stocks and bonds!
- Get death benefit coverage of at least 125% of your capital!

Invest in AXA now!

AXA
LIFE INSURANCE & INVESTMENTS

A member of the Metrobank Group

*Applications submitted for the October launch but with incomplete requirements as of October 31 will be processed at the November launch. Clients concerned will be notified by their agent or financial executive.

Tap Oil to pursue SC 41

Australia company drops Lumba Lumba well for more viable prospects at Sandakan Basin

By Abigail L. Ho

DESPITE GETTING UNINVORABLE results from drilling the Lumba Lumba-1 well, Australian firm Tap Oil Ltd. will continue to pursue oil- or prospects within Service Contract 41 in the Sulu Sea.

Tap Oil chief executive Peter Strickland said Lumba Lumba-1 was just a small part of the petroleum block, and other prospects could still be explored.

The company decided to abandon the well after encountering "serious technical problems" in the hole.

"We found some gas shows, but we didn't encounter a reservoir at the target level. However, SC 41 is a large block on which we shot a very large 3D seismic survey in 2007, and the technical team identified a number of prospects in different play types," Strickland said.

"We'll be reassessing these in light of the results from Lumba Lumba. We're confident that a quality prospect will emerge from that process, but it will take until 2009 before the process is concluded. It's worth noting that Exxon is expected to drill on the adjacent SC 56 permit in mid-2009," he added.

Tap had identified more than 20 prospects and leads within SC 41, where it conducted 3D seismic survey last year.

These prospects and leads, have individual sizes of up to or even greater than 100 million barrels, the company said.

Tap Oil in mid-2007 acquired 751.6 square kilometers of 3D seismic data in SC 41.

More than 20 leads were identified and numerous direct hydrocarbon indicators were observed.

SC 41 spans an area approximately 4,828 square kilometers in size, with water depths ranging from 200 meters to 2,000 meters. It is located in the Sandakan Basin in the Sulu Sea.

Apart from Tap Oil, other participants in SC 41 include Salamander Energy (35 percent), Oriental Petroleum and Minerals Corp. (5.462 percent), Philodrill Corp. (3.338 percent), Philex Mining Corp. (3.464 percent), Anglo Philippine Holding Corp. (1.877 percent), South China Resources Inc. (1.000 percent), Southeast Resources Inc. (0.008 percent), and Universal Robina Corp. (0.436 percent).

WITTY: Philippines employees help villagers at GK Velanda in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, plant the first seeds in their own vegetable farm. The village is the first of many where Wyeth plans to develop village farms.

After houses, vegetable patches for GK villagers

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE GROWING LEGION OF FILIPINOS around the country who have benefited from the groundbreaking work of General Kalibapi are more than happy just knowing that they now have a roof over their heads that they can call their own.

But activist General Kalibapi supporters have realized that the struggle to ensure less privileged Filipinos from the depths of poverty can not end with the construction and turnover of new houses.

Those beneficiaries may have homes, but they are still faced with the pressing problems of unemployment and hunger.

The noble work must therefore continue, and many corporations have responded to the call by attacking the unemployment issue using different strategies – skills training, job placement and creation of easy credit to budding entrepreneurs among residents of General Kalibapi villages.

Pharmaceutical company Wyeth Philippines Inc., meanwhile, is waging its own battle against hunger by coming to on a food self-sufficiency program.

Wyeth kicked off its ambitious program last Oct. 24 in GK Velanda in Sta. Cruz, Laguna. Villagers there are being taught to nurture more fruit trees, plant vegetables and raise chickens and pigs so they may be able to sustain themselves.

By maximizing the use of fertile land around the village, they will have no need to spend much of their meager family resources...about P300 a day – on food.

And they grow not just ordinary food, but food packed with vitamins and minerals that they will need to remain healthy.

Rochelle Hilario, Wyeth communications manager, told the barrios that Wyeth sought the expertise of the University of the Philippines Los Baños, Central Luzon State University, and the Food and Nutrition Research Institute to ensure that the villagers would plant the right trees and vegetables.

The result of that collaboration is a priority list of vitamin-packed vegetables, which include eggplants, squash, cowpeas (also called yardlong beans), fruits, namely pineapples, bananas and papayas.

These varieties were chosen because they are not only easy and inexpensive to grow, but are also a major part of the Filipino diet.

Hilario added that an area around the village – about 2 hectares in size – would also be dedicated to the growing of medicinal plants as well as production of organic fertilizer, which would again help the villagers to become self-sufficient.

To help start the villagers off on the road to food security, Wyeth has committed to backroll the initial cost of the GK Wyeth farms, including the purchase of vegetable seeds and fruit tree saplings and preparation of the land. It will also invest in the irrigation, setting up of compost area and greenhouse for seed germination.

CORPORATE CITIZEN

General Kalibapi, on the other hand, is responsible for ensuring the villagers re-make the most out of the farms from which they will hopefully get a good portion of their food fall.

Marco C. Flores, who handles the food sufficiency programs of General Kalibapi, said the farm would be divided into five lots and five families will be assigned to take care of one plot. What they grow in their patch of land can be bartered for vegetables from the other plot. This way, they not only get more produce but they also get a neighbor they can lean on.

"You can increase income by lessening the expense and you can do that by growing food," Flores said.

After Laguna, Wyeth will go to the GK Sambisa Village in Las Piñas and GK Aloop Canada in San Jose, Nueva Ecija, this month, GK Buenos in Tanza, Manila, in December and GK 180 Gol Village in Mercedes, Bataan, in January. There are also plans to go to GK 180 Canada in Tanza, Mindoro.

Hilario said the food-sufficiency program is part of General Kalibapi's Happy program on food sufficiency, which was launched eight months ago. Wyeth was one of the first companies to respond to the call for investments, and is the only one so far that has incorporated nutrition into the equation.

Wyeth president and general manager Andrew L. Santos said the company made sure that nutrition would be a major factor in the program "because we want to make sure we feed the way to a healthier world."

"The issues discovering, developing, manufacturing and marketing health care products that improve lives and deliver outstanding value to our customers and shareholders. It also means building distribution partnerships and using our resources to help people in the broadest way of life around the world," Santos said.

"Wyeth Philippines is committed to give underprivileged communities access to better and more sustainable sources for the whole family. The program is designed to ensure that the community will be able to sustain the farm concepts, long after the program proponents have turned over the project," he added.

Drastic . . .

From page B1

But UBS is optimistic that the country's current account balance will remain positive, and that the surplus may even be higher next year compared with this year.

UBS also said that the downturn in the country's inflation, expected to further ease in the coming months, could offset the adverse impact of declining remittances on the current account balance.

"A slower increase in the prices of commodities makes Philippine-made goods cheaper, thus helping boost exports, which is also a major source of dollars.

"Because the Philippines will also benefit from lower commodity prices, we expect the country's current account balance to rise in 2009, relative to 2008, even with lower remittances," UBS said.

Last week, the Arroyo administration's economic team upgraded its outlook on the country's export performance for 2009. The Interagency Development Budget Coordination Committee now sees exports growing by 6 percent instead of 5 percent next year, because the peso is earlier forecast of a dollar growth.

Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that the current account balance remained at a surplus of $823 million as of the second quarter.

Current account balance shows whether the country has gained or lost dollars on a net basis, the result of transactions that include exports and imports, and activities like remittances and grants or foreign aid.

FAO warns of rise in food prices

Nido expects new partner by year's end

By Abigail L. Ho

AUSTRALIAN COMPANY NIDO PETROLEUM Ltd. expects to close a deal with a new partner before the year ends, with interest in the firm now roaring due to the success of the Galoc oil field and other prospects off northwest Palawan.

"Nido is continuing to progress its search for a strategic partner to participate in the continued exploration of the company's acreage portfolio through a farm-in. Industry interest has been excellent...and this process is expected to conclude before the end of the year," Nido president and chief executive Jr Santamaria Ibe Otor said in the company's third-quarter regulatory filing.

The company started looking for a strategic partner for the development of Service Contracts 54, 58 and 63 in May following the issuance of an invitation for expressions of interest.

In September, the company and its adviser, Merrill Lynch International (Australia) Ltd., held a series of management presentations to interested investors at its Perth headquarters.

The submissions of bid and offers from potential partners had been set for next month.

"Looking forward, Nido's development opportunities in the shallow water area of SC 54 and West Linapacan, and its production from Galoc, will provide Nido with the financial capability to build its own with the successful farm-in partner and move forward to rapidly explore the deepwater Palawan," Ibe Otor said.

Galoc Production Co., the majority owner and operator of the Galoc oil field in offshore Northwest Palawan in which Nido had a 22.28-percent stake, recently sold 300,000 barrels of crude oil to Petron Corp.

The shipment should arrive at Petron's Limay, Bataan refinery within the week.

Nido, together with joint venture partner Kufpec Energy Ltd., had also recently concluded shallow water drilling program in SC 54, with two wells showing good potential for oil production.

Around 200 meters of gross oil column was confirmed in the area, from the Tindalo-1 and Tindalo-1 wells.

Tight credit markets forcing producers to scale back expansion, UN agency says

By Amy R. Remo

DESPITE EXPECTED BUMPER GLOBAL harvests, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization has warned of possible food price surges over the next two years due to the worsening global financial meltdown.

In its latest issue of the Food Outlook, FAO said that the current financial crisis will adversely affect agricultural sectors in many countries, including those in the developing world.

This is despite the fact that total world cereal production is expected to hit a new record of some 2.24 billion tons in 2008/2009.

A higher global rice production is also expected at 450 million tons during the same period.

However, this year's record cereal harvest and the recent fall in food prices should not create a false sense of security, according to Concepcion Calpe, one of the report's main authors.

"If the current price volatility and liquidity conditions prevail in 2008/09, plantings and output could be affected to such an extent that a new price surge might take place in 2009/10, unleashing even more severe food crises than those experienced recently," Calpe said.

Calpe explained that the financial crisis of the last few months has "amplified downward price movements, countervailed to tighter credit markets, and introduced greater uncertainty about next year's prospects, so that many producers are adopting very conservative planting decisions."

The report also noted that most of the recovery in cereal production took place in developed countries, where farmers were in a better position to respond to high prices.

In contrast, developing countries were largely limited in their capacity to respond to high prices by supply side constraints on their agricultural sectors.

FAO said that the sharp 2007/2008 rise in food prices has increased the number of undernourished people in the world to an estimated 923 million.

Lower international commodity prices have not yet translated into lower domestic food prices in many low-income countries, it added.

"There is a real risk that as a consequence of the current world economic problems, people will have to reduce their food intake and the number of hungry could rise further," Calpe said.

The FAO report further noted that world agriculture now facing without long-term issues and challenges that need to be urgently addressed.

These include land and water constraints, low investments in rural infrastructure and agricultural research, expensive agricultural inputs relative to farm-gate prices and little adaptation to climate change.

To feed a world population of more than 9 billion people by 2050, global food production must nearly double.

Fifty-odd countries is currently estimated at 6 billion.

PEL AC
"Maximize your Dollar and Price Growth Potential"
Invest in our Single Pay and Regular Pay Variable Products

Investment Funds of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Valuation Date 11/03/08	Valuation Date 10/31/08
PELAC Dollar Bond Fund	1.2402	1.2267
PELAC Global Bond Fund	1.3751	1.3527
PELAC Peso Fixed Income Fund	1.9780	1.9688
PELAC Peso Equity Fund	4.7844	4.8919
PELAC Balanced Fund	1.7196	1.6960

Thai firm invests $15M in RP

By Nico T. Ordinario

BANGKOK-BASED Thaicom Public Co. Ltd. has invested $15 million to provide satellite broadband services to the Philippines.

"With only 1 million broadband subscribers out of a population of about 90 million, Thaicom believes there is a market for its wireless broadband product called Ipstar, which is like satellite cable but instead of broadcasting, the consumer gets Internet access.

Dusanyarak Ramanoki, head of marketing for Ipstar, said in an interview that Thaicom has already spent $500 million to put up the satellite system over Asia Pacific, of which $15 million was invested for the Philippines alone.

"The system is already there, ready to be used even in disaster areas, to remote islands," he said.

Send your resume instantly to us at www.jobsdb.com.ph
JOB

Mapúa Institute of Technology
Mapúa-Ateneo Graduate School of Business
Graduate Programs
Master in Business Administration
Master in Management
Master in Information Technology
Master in Technology Management
Master in Financial Management
Master in Operations Management
Master in Human Resource Management
Master in Marketing Management
Master in Public Management
Master in Public Administration
Master in Public Policy
Master in Development Management
Master in Development Economics
Master in Development Studies
Master in Development Communication
Master in Development Journalism
Master in Development Education
Master in Development Psychology
Master in Development Sociology
Master in Development Anthropology
Master in Development Geography
Master in Development History
Master in Development Political Science
Master in Development Law
Master in Development Medicine
Master in Development Nursing
Master in Development Pharmacy
Master in Development Dentistry
Master in Development Veterinary Medicine
Master in Development Agriculture
Master in Development Forestry
Master in Development Fisheries
Master in Development Engineering
Master in Development Architecture
Master in Development Urban Planning
Master in Development Regional Planning
Master in Development Environmental Planning
Master in Development Natural Resources Management
Master in Development Water Resources Management
Master in Development Energy Management
Master in Development Transportation Management
Master in Development Communication Management
Master in Development Information Management
Master in Development Knowledge Management
Master in Development Technology Management
Master in Development Innovation Management
Master in Development Entrepreneurship
Master in Development Leadership
Master in Development Management
Master in Development Administration
Master in Development Policy
Master in Development Planning
Master in Development Evaluation
Master in Development Research
Master in Development Statistics
Master in Development Economics
Master in Development Finance
Master in Development Accounting
Master in Development Auditing
Master in Development Taxation
Master in Development Law
Master in Development Medicine
Master in Development Nursing
Master in Development Pharmacy
Master in Development Dentistry
Master in Development Veterinary Medicine
Master in Development Agriculture
Master in Development Forestry
Master in Development Fisheries
Master in Development Engineering
Master in Development Architecture
Master in Development Urban Planning
Master in Development Regional Planning
Master in Development Environmental Planning
Master in Development Natural Resources Management
Master in Development Water Resources Management
Master in Development Energy Management
Master in Development Transportation Management
Master in Development Communication Management
Master in Development Information Management
Master in Development Knowledge Management
Master in Development Technology Management
Master in Development Innovation Management
Master in Development Entrepreneurship
Master in Development Leadership
Mapúa Institute of Technology
Mapúa-Ateneo Graduate School of Business
Graduate Programs
Master in Business Administration
Master in Management
Master in Information Technology
Master in Technology Management
Master in Financial Management
Master in Operations Management
Master in Human Resource Management
Master in Marketing Management
Master in Public Management
Master in Public Administration
Master in Public Policy
Master in Development Management
Master in Development Economics
Master in Development Studies
Master in Development Communication
Master in Development Journalism
Master in Development Education
Master in Development Psychology
Master in Development Sociology
Master in Development Anthropology
Master in Development Geography
Master in Development History
Master in Development Political Science
Master in Development Law
Master in Development Medicine
Master in Development Nursing
Master in Development Pharmacy
Master in Development Dentistry
Master in Development Veterinary Medicine
Master in Development Agriculture
Master in Development Forestry
Master in Development Fisheries
Master in Development Engineering
Master in Development Architecture
Master in Development Urban Planning
Master in Development Regional Planning
Master in Development Environmental Planning
Master in Development Natural Resources Management
Master in Development Water Resources Management
Master in Development Energy Management
Master in Development Transportation Management
Master in Development Communication Management
Master in Development Information Management
Master in Development Knowledge Management
Master in Development Technology Management
Master in Development Innovation Management
Master in Development Entrepreneurship
Master in Development Leadership

E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph

INFOTECH

Nokia reaches out to the masses

STYLISH yet affordable? 7100 Supernova is equipped with a 1.3 megapixel camera.

By Charles E. Bolton

WITH ALL THE SLEEK-LOOKing and feature-laden mobile phones out in the market today, one would think to manufacturers have left one attribute very near of their consumers who could only dream of owning such expensive gadgets.

Well, these so-called emerging markets may now have good reason to rejoice as Nokia, the world's largest mobile phone maker, recently unveiled its new mobile phone models, as well as two new services specifically for this group of consumers.

"With these new models, we are, in a way, bridging digital divide as many of these mobile phones are not only affordable-and may in one but they also enable their users to create an e-mail account as well as access the Internet," said Sim Sze Lay, head of Nokia Southeast Asia Pacific's Go-To-Market Entry-Category.

In fact, four of these 3G-equipped mobile phones presented during Nokia's Programming Together event held in Jakarta, Indonesia last week, will be joined under 3G1 (about P3,000)—the Nokia 2323 Classic, Nokia 2700 classic, Nokia 3202 and the Nokia 5610.

Lowest priced

The Nokia 1202 claims the title as Nokia's lowest priced mobile phone to date, coming in at a mere E51 (about P3,500).

With its re-assuming exterior design, black and white screen and large, clear numerous keypad, Nokia says very interesting features thus a lot of our users will would truly appreciate: a built-in flashlight, a standby time of up to 20 days and talk time of up to nine hours.

The long battery life is extremely valuable to people living in areas where there is no electricity and have to travel a long way just to get their devices charged.

Family phone

The Nokia 1202 is also designed to be a family phone—it may be shared by up to five individuals or members of the family, thanks to multiple phone books and time and pin-pad tracker (this feature enables each user to have a separate means of timing their individual usage).

The Nokia 1661, the company's lowest priced...E88 at about P3,000—colored screen mobile phone features an FM radio, flashlight and multiple phonebooks.

Two new models, the Nokia 2323 classic and Nokia 2330 classic, supports Mail Ovi and Nokia Life Tools (more on this later) in addition to having an FM radio with recording and easy-charging in radio.

While both models are equipped with Opera Mini, a fast and compact Web browser, the Nokia 2330 features a VGA camera.

The Nokia 2323 will have an estimated retail price of E67 (about P2,700). The Nokia 2330 may be had for E63.

The 7100 Supernova, a stylish 3G slider that features an FM radio (with radio recording) and a 1.3-megapixel camera, will be sold at an estimated retail price of $95 (about P4,600).

On the other hand, the Xpress-Music 5130 will be Nokia's most affordable music phone. With retail price estimated at P5,600, it comes with a digital music player, FM radio and accepts any headphone with a standard 3.5 mm jack.

THE EXPRESSMUSIC 5130 is Nokia's most affordable music phone.

New services

A number of these mobile phones unveiled would be less useful without supported services, so Nokia also launched its Mail on Ovi, as well as the new Life Tools designed especially for those living in rural communities.

The Mail on Ovi (the word means "Door" in Finnish), which for now is only enabled in Nokia Series 40 devices, allows users to create an e-mail account directly on the mobile phone without having to use a personal computer.

"For many in emerging markets, there seemingly instead access to the internet is the ownership of a personal computer and the ability to have an e-mail account of their own, have been expanded as a luxury available only to others because of cost and availability," said Leung Sze Yuang, head of Nokia Southeast Asia Pacific's Music, TV and Video GTM Service and Software. "The Mail on Ovi will give these individuals the possibility to create their free Internet identity and communicate in new ways."

Nokia Life Tools, on the other hand, is a range of innovative agriculture information and education services that aim to help overcome information constraints and provides farmers and students with timely and relevant information.

These services will use text-based, graphically-rich user interface that comes complete with tables and which can even display information simultaneously in two languages.

Koenig said that Mail could be utilized to deliver these information, thereby users from the hassle of going through additional settings.

The Mail by Ovi service will be available globally by the end of this year while the new Nokia Life Tools is already available in India, with Asia and Africa receiving the service early next year.

THE NOKIA 1202 is the company's most affordable.

Cheapest Atom-powered netbook with big storage

By Raquel P. Gomez

THE NEWEST LAUNCHED INTEL Atom-powered Webbook 1020S, made by Red Fox Technologies, is by far the cheapest Atom-powered netbook in the market today. It has a 10.2-inch display with 1024 x 600 resolution, and 80-gigabyte hard-disk capacity.

PC Gurus sells the unit, preinstalled with Linpus Linux Lite operating system, for only P17,208 (1-gig RAM) and P18,500 (2-gig RAM). Other netbooks with almost similar specs still sell for over P30,000.

The Webbook 1020S is also the first netbook Red Fox Technologies has equipped with the energy efficient 45 nanometer—the process that fuel has specially made for net books. These affordable PCs are intended for Internet consumption and other low demanding PC applications.

And Red Fox Technologies, which is identified with AMD products, has another equally low-priced Webbook that runs on the slower AMD Geode processor and has a smaller screen size—the Webbook 800 with 8GB of PSG998.

Like other netbooks, the 1.25-kg Webbook 1020S features the Atom processor N270 1.6 GHz with 512 KB L1 cache, 512 KB L2 cache, and 533 MHZ FSB. It has built-in stereo speakers, 1.3M-pixel RJ-45, and reader port (MS/MMC/SD), 3 USB slots, wireless (1.3-MP), and 4-cell battery rechargeable up to four hours.

Top of the heap

The appearance of the Atom-powered Webbook has made the netbook market more crowded. According to Amazon.com product surveys, netbooks are on top of the heap of gifts people are to sending to buy this Christmas.

Price-wise, the Webbook 1020S is one good buy but consumers resigned on Microsoft operating systems may think twice about the Linpus OS that comes with the unit. The Linpus Linux Lite OS is stuffed in the Webbook, however, has more than enough functionality features, applications and interface (almost similar to that Microsoft Windows), which may dampen their views.

Linpus Linux Lite is made by Linpus Technologies, a Taiwan company. The firm's primary focus has been on research and development and offering open-source engineering services in IT and OEMs (original equipment manufacturer) in the areas...which is the reason why many netbooks made by Taiwan OEMs (like Acer) come installed with the Linpus OS.

Easy and normal

The Linpus Linux Lite is based on Red Hat's Fedora. Unlike Windows XP, which only has one user interface, the Linpus Linux Lite features a dual-mode user interface —easy and normal. The "easy" mode, which features large colorful icons of applications arranged under different functions (Work, Internet, Limit, Play, Settings) are for people who are first time PC users.

A click of one icon, grouped according to function, will take the user to the desired Application.

The normal interface takes the user to a Window-like interface, or a more traditional PC interface where the user may find a program icon on the bottom left of the screen that acts like the "start" button in Microsoft Windows.

Application icons also reside in the lower side. On the whole desktop (called KDE 3.5x desktop) for other icons like trash, home, file system and terminal.

Designed to run on minimal hardware requirements, the Linpus Linux Lite offers other useful applications like Adobe Reader 9, Google Docs, calendar, new office and OpenOffice Writer, Presentation, and Spreadsheet.

For photo-editing and management, it has F-Spot Photo Manager, gThumb Image Viewer and Simple applications like mail client, it has SIMPhone and GCStar.

The low-priced Webbook 1020S X2 comes in white, black and red colors.

GIVE YOUR DATA'S CONTINGENCY PLAN A CONTINGENCY PLAN.

intel Xeon Powerful. efficient.

IBM System x3350 Express (4192D2A)

Php89,000.00

HELP KEEP YOUR DATA SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE.

Intel® Xeon® Processor X3320 (2.5GHz)
2GB PC2-5300 667MHz DDR2 SDRAM
1X146 10k rpm SFF Hot Swap SAS HDD
1-Year Parts & Labor, On-Site, Next Business Day, 9x5

• Now available - Indonesia's FIRST Everyplace Tool for data security!

IBM System x3550 Express (7978B2A)
Intel® Xeon® Processor E5405 (2.0GHz)
2GB PC2-5300 667MHz DDR2 SDRAM
ServeRAID-MR10i SAS Controller
1x300GB 10k rpm Hot Swap SAS HDD
Price: Php126,500.00

The more valuable your data, the more you need to protect it. Redundancy is critical. Like in the IBM System x3350 Express. It comes with Integrated RAID. Can our competitors say that? So if there's ever a serious data problem on one drive, your business can keep running. Because the data you need is available in another location. Anytime you need it. Smart plan.

From the people and Business Partners of IBM
It's innovation made easy.

IBM SYSTEM x3650 EXPRESS (7979-22)

Price: Php 172,000.00

Intel® Xeon® Processor E5405 (2.0GHz)
2GB PC2-5300 667MHz DDR2 SDRAM
2x146GB 10k rpm Hot Swap SAS HDDs
3-Year Parts & Labor, On-Site, 24x7 4-Hour Response

• Great Offer - Bundle your x3650 with IBM TSM for MS Windows 2003 Server Standard Edition and get a Lenovo MouseRat 610 for FREE!

IBM System x3650 Express (7979B2A)
Intel® Xeon® Processor E5405 (2.0GHz)
2GB PC2-5300 667MHz DDR2 SDRAM
ServeRAID-MR10i SAS Controller
Price: Php 172,000.00

IBM SYSTEM STORAGE DS3400 EXPRESS (1726-22)

Dual Controller with 512MB cache, 4Gbps FC interface
Integrated RAID 0, 1, 3, 5, 10
Supports 16 drives, available in 4U rack and TOWER model

• Great Bundle and Great Savings - 1.2TB storage FREE!

IBM System x3650 M2 (4583B2A) with 4x1GB memory, 1x 146GB 10k HS SAS HDDs, ServeRAID-8k controller, 675W p/s
IBM System Storage DS3400 Express Dual RAID Controller
4x300 GB 10K FC HDDs, 4x4Gbps SW SFP Transceiver
1x4GB FC-4 Host HBA, additional 1Yr FA SAN HDDs
Price: 470,000.00

More offers await!
• Buy any x3200 M2 Express and get a select wireless USB mouse for FREE!
• Buy any x3400 M2 Express and get a digital camera for FREE!
• Buy any 8 select IBM Express Servers with 4GB FSTR and get a Lenovo MouseRat 610 for FREE!

IBM express advantage

Visit www.ibm.com/ph/offers
Hotline: 1800-1888-1426 or (632) 888-2400

Preferred Value Partners: Acuario Micro Technologies, Inc. • Advanced Solutions, Inc. • Allied Technologies Network, Inc. • Alphatech Philippines, Inc. • Alphatech Technologies, Inc. • Asian Computer Technologies, Inc. • Asiatech Computer Corporation • Bancom Technologies, Inc. • Bancom Technologies, Inc. • Bancom Technologies, Inc.

BUSINESS

The WISER OPTION

BPI LEASING answers all your questions on leasing.

Why BPI Leasing?

Leasing is definitely more than just shopping around for better lease terms. Checking out what companies can actually offer is a smart move.

- We are the recognized leader with a reputation for reliability and innovative leasing solutions, backed by knowledgeable and highly experienced personnel.
- We are owned by BPI, one of the largest banks in the country, with over 100 years of solid banking leadership.
- We provide high-value-added leasing programs designed not merely as financing options but as creative business solutions.
- Almost half of the country's top 1,000 corporations lease from us, so you can rely on our LEADERSHIP & EXPERIENCE.
- We are known for our MARKET INNOVATIONS, like allowing our clients to view their account status and pay rentals via the Internet or through automatic debit arrangements.
- We are at ease with the latest market developments, and we provide you PROMPT TO INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS.
- Our customers have the added convenience of choosing the type of lease that will give them optimum benefit — finance lease or operating lease.

For a more detailed explanation of what we offer, and if you want us to come up with a leasing plan tailored to your company's needs, we will be more than happy to send a representative to your office.

The BENEFITS of BPI Leasing

- CONSERVE CAPITAL by availing outright purchases that can be on your company's books as outstanding debts.
- PRESERVE YOUR BANK CREDIT LINES for other purposes.
- ENJOY TAX-TREATMENT BENEFITS that best suit your current or prior tax standing based on facts and circumstances.
- SIMPLIFY YOUR BUDGET with one fixed, predictable rental that remains the same throughout the contract without any unforeseen increase.
- ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE AND ADVANTAGE OF AUTOMATIC DEBIT ARRANGEMENT that can be made with any bank and most other major banks.
- LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT that allows you to own the asset at the end of the lease term, subject to the terms and conditions of the lease agreement.

Go for THE WISER OPTION.

BPI Leasing Corporation

The Leader in Leasing.

Wall Street may take breather after wild roller-coaster ride

NEW YORK—AFTER WEEKS OF HIGH volatility, Wall Street may find this week's quiet macroeconomic calendar the perfect opportunity to regroup and plan for the final stretch of the dangerous year.

With no major economic news scheduled, "investors may have an opportunity to ... assess the damage that has been done through the last several weeks," said Stan Shamu, an analyst at Wachovia Securities.

For now, "a lot of investors are sitting on the sidelines and waiting to see how the market trades until the end of the year," he added.

After a spectacular 18 percent rise over six sessions, Wall Street was hammered last week—once again in volatile trade—as the general reality of the rapidly accelerating financial crisis sank in.

The economic downturn rapidly overshadowed the euphoria over the election of Democrat Barack Obama last Tuesday as the 44th president of the United States.

The "Obama effect" lasted only one day, as voters headed to the polls, letting the markets in the biggest election day rally in history.

Unemployment worries drove the blue-chip Dow Jones Industrial Average down nearly 1,000 points in the next two days. Wednesday the ADP survey showed the private sector shed 157,000 jobs in October, far more than already pessimistic analysts had expected, and Thursday investors bruised for a grim October jobs report due from the government on Friday.

Their fears were more than proved right. The US October unemployment rate rose to its highest level since 1994, official data showed Friday, with analysts forecasting it to move even higher in Obama's first year as president.

The Labor Department said the jobless rate rose to 6.5 percent as the world's largest economy shed 240,000 jobs during the month amid the credit squeeze and downturn.

For the first week of November, the Dow fell 4 percent to 8,993.81 points, after gaining more than 11 percent in the previous week.

The tech-heavy Nasdaq dropped 4.37 percent to 1,847.40 and the broad Standard & Poor's 500-ended 3.92 percent lower at 930.75.

This week, only the retail sales numbers on Friday seem sure to bring market-moving potential, according to analysts, because of concerns that consumers' pressing needs to splurge to speed will spell disaster for the all-important holiday shopping season.

On the corporate calendar, the quarterly earnings season winds down.

Insurance giant AIG, partly nationalized when the government stepped in to ensure it from collapse, is scheduled to publish third-quarter financial results today, and Wal-Mart, the world's biggest retailer, on Thursday.

The past week was littered with poor earnings reports, profit warnings and layoffs.

Computer Maxtel, chip manufacturer AMD, electronics retailer Circuit City and credit card firm American Express all announced job cuts. AFP

Time to regroup, prepare for end of 2008, analysts say

Gold to outperform oil as global recession brews

NEW YORK—THE PRICE OF GOLD HAS not fallen as sharply as the price of crude oil and other cyclical commodities during the global financial crisis, and bullion should strengthen relative to other commodities as economic troubles deepen.

Gold bullion has dropped 11 percent since October after a frenzy of fund disbursing. But its oil purchasing power, a key gauge of economic strength, is at its highest in nearly two years and is holding up relative to copper and other semi-basics.

The precious metal's unique monetary function as an inflation hedge and safe-haven haven will be raised, managers said.

"Right now you would rather be long gold than short oil because you are still heading into a direction where gold will continue to buy more of everything," said Greg Gruell of California-based OCM Gold Fund.

Gruell said a key difference between gold and oil is that oil is produced for consumption and will deplete one day, but gold accumulates over time.

"For a commodity such as oil, you are giving a reflection of the global slowdown, and that's why it is going down on a relative basis versus gold," Gruell said.

An ounce of gold on Friday bought 12 barrels of oil, its strongest since January 2007. When oil peaked at a record near $150 per barrel in July, the gold-to-oil ratio was 6.6. GOLD's weakest point relative to oil was in 2005 as you owe 6, and its long-term average was about 15.

Historically gold tends to rise in tandem with oil.

Investors see the metal as a hedge against inflation because dollar's rise in the value in not tied to any paper assets.

Gold also has two against major industrial commodities such as copper and nickel.

Year to date, gold was down 12 percent, while crude oil dropped 36 percent and has lost more than 58 percent since it hit a record $147.27 per barrel, and the MSCI All Country World index, which tracks the performance of the global equities market, dropped 45 percent. Reuters

Automakers seek help from Washington

DETROIT, MICHIGAN—WITH THE BIG Three US automakers teetering on the edge of insolvency, it appears Washington may finally be ready to come to Detroit's rescue.

Only hours after both General Motors and Ford Motor Co. announced large third-quarter losses—and stressed that they are both rapidly running out of cash—President-elect Barack Obama's spokesperson Linda Douty's pilight during his first news conference since Tuesday's election.

"I have made it a high priority for the transition team to work on solid targeted policy options to help the auto industry adjust," Obama told reporters gathered in Chicago.

Just how bad is it means the automakers are facing was hammered home on Friday when GM reported a $2.5-billion net loss for the third quarter, bringing to nearly $7 billion dollars its losses since the beginning of 2008.

Yet the losses only partially state the true depth of the problem for the automakers.

Going into the third quarter, GM had $21 billion in its kindle. By the end of September, but that had plunged to $15.3 billion, costing profoundly close to the $13 billion to $14 billion it says it needs on hand to keep the company operating.

"I doubt there's anyone who challenges the fact that we're operating in difficult times, perhaps as difficult as we've ever faced in the auto industry," GM chair and CEO Rick Wagoner said during a Friday conference call with reporters and industry analysts.

Detroit's situation has certainly worsened in the face of the current economic crisis that combines what many describe as a "perfect storm" of factors, such as high fuel costs, tight credit, job losses and rising commodity prices.

GM president Fritz Henderson said Friday the automaker will have to cut back on some product programs in order to ensure liquidity.

That creates a conundrum, of course. To stay alive, these cents, the Big Three might be curtailing programs that would ensure long-term success.

So federal aid becomes all the more important, said Joe Phillippi, an automotive analyst and head of AutoPacific Consulting.

"Both the current administration and the incoming administration recognize it will take at least $50 billion to take the automakers over through 2009, when they start to get some labor cost relief, and an improvement in demand," he told AFP.

The Big Three asked for another 10 billion in loan guarantees for more general expenses during a morning visit to Washington Thursday.

"Automakers need immediate funding to stay on track during the difficult time," said National Association of Manufacturers president John Engler.

"We're talking almost close to a million jobs in manufacturing—we're talking about a lasting impact on our industrial production in the United States. We simply cannot afford to let the auto industry fail." AFP

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino
BUSINESS Monday

Tight rules may have saved RP insurance sector

After complaining of strict environment, firms are now singing a different tune

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE FINANCIAL TURMOIL THAT HAS SENT more one-quarter giants in the United States on a tailspin, has changed the way Philippine investors view the local regulatory environment—something they used to describe as "absurdly tight."

Prior to the US financial meltdown and its spillover effects across the globe, insurance companies in the Philippines were up in arms over sector regulations. They claimed that the tight rules had hampered their efforts to guarantee profit from the life and nonlife insurance industries called for amendments to the Insurance Code so they could invest in more sophisticated financial instruments.

But now, insurance companies in the country are singing a different tune.

Witnessing how lax regulatory policies had pushed American firms to the edge of bankruptcy, insurance firms here are thankful they are regulated a lot stricter than their foreign counterparts.

"Nonlife insurance companies in the Philippines are very nobik," says Melecio Mallillin, trustee of the Philippine Insurers and Reinsurers Association (Pira), a group of nonlife insurance companies. "The Insurance Commission did well in steering us in this particular direction [away from the crisis]."

Similar view

Life insurance companies take the same view.

"The Insurance Commission is very strict in approving investment activities of insurance companies," says George Mercado, president of the Philippine Life Insurance Association (Pla). "Because of that, the industry is only minimally, if at all, affected by the US financial crisis."

Under regulatory rules laid down for the insurance sector, companies may not simply invest where they want. Investing in instruments apart from government securities entails stiff requirements. Take investing in stocks for instance: Insurance firms may only invest in blue chips that have gone public and have been distributing dividends for at least three years.

When investing offshore, Mercado says, insurance firms need to vet fund managers that have strong financial background as show by their financial statements for three consecutive years.

Because of tight regulations, Mercado says, investments of insurance firms are heavily focused on virtually risk-free government securities. These include peso-denominated treasury bonds and foreign currency denominated RP bonds.

In the case of Manulife Insurance, which sells nonlife insurance products, including those for motor vehicles, the losses caused by the financial crisis in the West is a blessing in disguise.

Opportunity

"The crisis became an opportunity for us to gather more customers," says Silvia Tolentino, senior vice president for sales at Manulife Insurance. "Because of our solid financial standing, we became more of the public's choice."

Tolentino says the crisis made people more cautious in investing their money. People now only trust companies that are known for relatively conservative investment choices.

Previously, the inability of insurance firms to freely invest in sophisticated and more

TURN TO B4.2

MERCADO

MOVEMENTS

General Pilipinas new exec

OR GUAN HAN (JOHN) GENERAL PILIPINAS (GP) as executive vice president and chief financial officer. Han brings with him a wealth of competent financial operations management from abroad. He was chief financial officer of TM Asia Life Malaysia Bhd prior to joining GP.

Manuel T. Hetta Jr. is GP's senior assistant vice president and head for information technology. Manny brings with him over 18 years of technology development and project management experience. He is a certified project management professional and has strong background in software development and understanding of relational databases. Prior to his joining GP, he was the manager for systems development for Sun Life Financials Inc. Asia Regional Shared IT Services.

Josephine S. Balcubilan is vice president and controller for GP. Josie is a certified public accountant and has varied experiences in the financial operations and systems both locally and abroad. Prior to GP, Josie was the assistant vice president for finance operations at Sun Life of Canada (Philippines) Inc.

Naluyan is new Pioneer director

WILLIAM H. NAÑAGAS II WAS RECENTLY elected as a board member of the Pioneer Group of companies comprised of Pioneer Insurance, Pioneer Life and Pioneer Intercon. He was based in New York with Citibank NA prior to his government stints with the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., SEC and the Development Bank of the Philippines.

He has been a guest lecturer for many local and foreign business schools and currently serves on the boards of several educational institutions and NGOs in the country, including being the chair of the Philippine Council for NGO Certification.

Nañagas joined Emily A. Abrera, a former chair of McCann Erickson in the Philippines, as the most recent additions to Pioneer's board members.

Turner Entertainment new VP

LUCIEN HAWKINS HAS BEEN APpointed to the newly created position of vice president, branding & communications- Turner Entertainment Networks Asia (Tnea), it was announced by Rosemita Ebarry Saha, senior vice president and general manager, Tnea.

Based in Tnea's regional headquarters in Hong Kong, Lucien will work closely with Turner's senior executive team to develop brand and communication strategies for continued growth and further expansion of its entertainment portfolio in the region. As brand custodian of the network, Lucien will define and establish the strategic direction for each of the entertainment brands and provide overall leadership in marketing, creative services and public relations.

Lucien comes from Asian Advertising Plans Ltd., where he was the managing director. Previously, he held the position of vice president of marketing, Walt Disney Co., Asia Pacific, and was a leading member of the team that developed, negotiated and implemented growth strategy leading to successive entry into India, Vietnam, Cambodia and greater expansion into China. He oversaw six expansions in Disney's true-events program across the region and led the negotiations to introduce the Cinderella Hoverwave, lift air franchise into hostilities and New Zealand.

SEND YOUR RESUMES INSTANTLY
VISIT US AT www.jobsdatabase.com
JOBS

Financial markets—how large are they?

MAPping THE FUTURE

Aurelio O. Angeles

WE MEASURE THE SIZE OF A company by its assets, net worth or sales.

We measure how big an economy is by its gross domestic product, exports or foreign reserves.

How does one measure the size of the financial markets?

Fortune's top 500

Here is an interesting series of statistics from Fortune's Top 500 corporations in the United States. (Source: http://money.cnn.com/magazines/fortune/fortune500/2005/full_list/.)

In 1955 Fortune's top 50 included only companies, which produced goods and services in the real economy.

In this list, not a single bank or financial intermediary appears. Neither in the top 500.

Here is a sampling of the top 50 companies in 1955: General Motors, Exxon, US Steel, DuPont, Bethlehem Steel, AT&T, Ford, Goodyear, IBM, Firestone, Swift, Alcoa, Wilson, United Technologies, American Can, Boise Cascade, International Paper, Kraft, Armstrong Cork, Standard Oil of California, Westinghouse, Texaco, Gulf Oil, Sears, Roebuck, Union Carbide, Monsanto, Eastman Kodak, Armco.

Many of these names no longer register in the front page news.

The first time a financial markets operator appears in the Fortune top 50 corporations was in 1999 when Citigroup ranked number 37. That is 13 years ago.

Let us consider 2005 records. In this year the list of the Fortune top 50 corporations includes the following 13 financial operators: Citigroup (ranked No. 8), Bank of America (18), AIG (19), JP Morgan Chase (113), Berkshire Hathaway (32), Morgan Stanley (203), Merrill Lynch (232), Goldman Sachs (241), MetLife (257), Wells Fargo (311), Wachovia (461), Lehman Brothers (477) and Freddie Mac (500).

That is 13 out of 500.

Give another 10 years and we will see the figure reversed. Given another 20 years and the top 50 corporations may likely all be financial operators.

History is truly more fascinating than fiction.

How they became large

How indeed did the financial markets become so large and command such high respect from the governments of the world?

For simplification, let us say that the unusual volume of the production of standard in end goods and services amounts to $10 million and from this production, standard generates an annual saving (versus misuse-expenditure) of $1 million.

What happens to the $1 million savings? Answer: It is kept and secured by financial markets operations.

What happens to the $9 million net value of production? Answer: It was sold, consumed and done such.

Let us say that every new year brings in a net production of $8 million and savings of $1 million that is accumulated to the hands of financial markets operators. Let us stretch our minds further and say that this annual cycle happens for 100 years.

What do we see at the end of 100 years?

We will indeed be seeing that the real economy still annually produces, sells and consumes $9 million worth of goods and services, but the wealth in the hands of financial markets would now have grown to $100 million—100 years times $1 million per year.

What does this concept mean? Well, it means the financial markets could now become bigger than the producers of real goods and services.

Let us assume that financial markets operators earn a mere 1 percent on all the savings accumulated in their purse strings.

That would mean that even as the economy continues to save $1 million a year (revenue minus expenditure), the financial market net now earning at least $1 million a year—1 percent based on the accumulated savings of $100 million plus compounds.

That is very neat, indeed!

What if the financial markets operators become rather greedy of earning only 1 percent?

Then they would find a way of engineering paper certificates that would yield not just 1 percent but, say, 3 percent or more per year on the accumulated savings of $100 million! Then, the $1 million earnings of the financial markets would greatly exceed the $1 million of the real economy.

Then, we would start to think that the real economy is simply a poor cousin of financial markets and the real generator of wealth in the economy is the financial markets—manifold (100).

And governments, captains of industries and the rich and famous of the world whose wealth are ever yielding at least 3 percent in the hands of financial operators would indeed find financial markets operators simply adorable.

Derivatives for rich time

How to another material for understanding the scope of the operations of the financial markets.

The most commonly known financial instrument is the promissory note. It bears an interest rate. The bank lends to a factory owner and covers the transaction with a PN. Its source of funds are deposits, which are, in turn, covered by a passbook or a deposit certificate possessing a maturity date and interest.

But over the years, the financial markets operators engineered and created various forms of marketable financial instruments to attract savings and provide higher yields for investors. These instruments, such as the shares of stocks of a company, can be bought and sold in countless times as often as there are buyers and sellers.

One such financial instruments is called derivatives.

What MIT has to say?

> How ironic that the rich and the powerful must lose money for having so much of it in the financial markets

Let me now introduce the definition by New York Times of derivatives in its website, http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/subjects/d/derivatives/index.html?inline=nyt-classifier:

"The most common types of derivatives are futures, forwards, which are futures traded outside of a regular exchange; options, which are the right to buy or sell something at a specified date and price; and swaps, contracts involving an exchange of assets or payments."

The article continues: "In recent years, a bewildering variety of derivatives have been developed. Two types that have played a central role in the recent turmoil are mortgage-backed securities, whose value depends on the value of the mortgages, which depends on how many of them are being paid off, and credit default swaps, which are in essence a form of insurance policy, and whose value swings with the (low) health of the transaction or asset it is in relation to cover."

How big is the market for derivatives today?

The MIT article continues:

"The derivatives market today is $333 trillion, up from $138 trillion in 2002 and a relative pittance just five decades ago. Theoretically intended to limit risk and assist all financial gamblers, the contracts instead have ushered unwelcomely and actually spread risk and created dozens about how companies value them."

You may not have caught the significance of those figures, so I will compare them with the gross domestic product of nations.

Derivatives vs GDP values

The total 2005 GDP of the United States amount to $13 trillion. The Philippine GDP is $0.144 trillion.

The combined GDP of the United Kingdom, Spain, Italy, Germany, France and the United States is $34 trillion. (Source: IMF World Economic Outlook Database, http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2006/02/weodata/weoselagr.)

Compare this value to the real economy of all these countries with the total market of derivatives mentioned above—$333 trillion. It is less than 5 percent!

If our GDPs mean $13 billion a year to our economy in how many years would they be able to pay for the value of derivatives transacted today?

Thirty-five thousand four hundred years.

Surely the value of $333 trillion derivatives includes notional values and may not reflect the true value of the transaction. That may be correct. Nevertheless, the figures astound.

But one thing is clear from these figures. They explain why governments and central banks are here on saving the interests of financial operators by lending their requirements for survival with $700 billion and more of the past, present and future money of taxpayers.

Only a segment of markets

But that is not the end.

There are two other major ways of measuring the size of the financial markets—the annual volume of trade in stock markets and of transactions in bonds in world exchanges. (Source: World Federation of Exchanges' website: http://www.world-exchanges.org/WFE/home.asp.)

In 2005, the total value of shares traded in stock exchanges in the world amounted to $101.2 trillion. Of this amount, about 46 percent or $46.6 trillion was traded in the United States.

In the same year, the total value of bonds trading in major exchanges in the world was $35.2 trillion.

In all, the values of the three types of investments amount to $647.4 trillion.

What does this tell us?

The world has generated trillions of savings and most of them are invested in exchanges.

Let us put this concept in an easy-to-understand statement. The world of exchanges are awash with money accumulated through centuries of industrial working to the real economy and that money has no place to go.

This belongs to light the reason why financial engineering is one of the hottest careers in the world and financial engineers command highest incomes.

The abundance of capital in the world of exchanges today also explains why derivatives must be invented. If derivatives were not invented, financial engineers would create another medium by which the wealth of nations could be attracted, channeled and yield high returns.

How ironic it is that the rich and the powerful must lose money for having so much of it in the financial markets!

And how difficult it is to comprehend that while this abundant wealth has no place to go but to an endless spiral of speculative transactions, billions of people in third world countries and underdeveloped economies are wanting of food, clothing, housing, medicine, hospitals, roads, bridges, airports, clean air, clean waters and capital to build businesses.

Secretary Henry Sudan Jr., how I wish you explain this phenomenon!

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is an entrepreneur who wrote the books "The Peso Exchange Rate: Why, Are We So Poor?" and "The Philippine Economy: Do Our Leaders Have A Clue?" Feedback at mapp@globelines.com.ph. For previous articles, please visit <map.ejp.ph>.)

Tight rules may ...

From page B1

complex securities was seen as reflect the backwardness of the country's capital markets.

Despite the birth of various investment instruments in highly developed Western markets, government securities still comprise about 90 percent of the instruments traded domestically.

But observers say that the "backward" practice here served as a blessing in disguise—it saved the insurance industry from a similar meltdown now corroding the industrialized economies of the United States and Europe.

Observers also cited how American international firms had to be bailed out by the US government from its huge debts, while its subsidiary in the Philippines—Philamlife Insurance—remained the strongest insurance company here due to strict domestic regulatory policies.

But of course, this doesn't mean insurance firms in the country will always be content with investing only in fixed-income instruments issued by the government. While they think tight regulations for hedging these safe from harm, insurance firms will still be working on boosting income by opting out other investment instruments, although in moderation.

Vida Chiong, deputy insurance commissioner, says the Insurance Commission does not implement what is perceived to be strict investment policies for the sake of delegacy.

"What we enact is a balance between protecting policyholders and regulation in such a way that will not stifle growth of the insurance industry," she says.

Prepare for retirement now

By Emily Ann Inocencio-Lumbao
Contributor

RETIREMENT: SOME LOOK FORward to it, while others dread it. Some choose to retire, while others are forced to. It can be a time of pleasure anticipation or unbridled apprehension.

Aetonio Cruz conducted a survey to remember how people feel about retirement and what steps they are taking to prepare for it.

Results show that almost all (96 percent) expressed excitement about doing activities they have been postponing all.

Sixty-four percent find they will have more control over their daily routine. Thirty-two percent said they will be relieved that they do not have to work anymore. On the other hand, one of three feel anxious about financial security. Twenty-nine percent feel they will miss their job. A few respondents cited feeling less important, boredom, loneliness and fear.

WORKPLACE WISDOM

What steps are they taking in preparation for retirement?

The majority are saving money (67 percent). Others are starting a business (33 percent) and pursuing hobbies and interests outside work (33 percent). About 63 percent are getting involved in community activities and 27 percent are buying retirement plans.

Many respondents (68 percent) agree that they have thought of what they want to do when they retire. It appears that the respondents accept their retirement is an inevitable phase in one's life. Some actually look forward to it as a time when they can do what is important or meaningful to them.

Whether it will be pleasure or traumatic may be determined by how well-prepared one is, emotionally, mentally, financially and, even perhaps, spiritually.

Knowing that, a number of them have taken a open themselves to set goals that would ensure a healthy change in their lifestyle.

A great majority (90 percent) agreed that organizations should help their employees. Indeed, the more organizations equip their employees in planning for retirement, the more smooth the transition will be. The less apprehensive employees are about their future, the more productive they can be for the rest of their work life.

In the Philippines, a few organizations have instituted programs to assist their employees plan for retirement. They offer career life transition workshops, financial planning, business ideas and opportunities seminars, counseling and outplacement. These services are usually outsourced to groups who specialize in these areas. Some more innovative companies organize fairs, inviting government agencies, such as Social Security System (SSS) and banks or give talks on retirement and investment. The main objective is to increase the level of preparedness for an inevitable phase in the employee's career.

While organizations are expected to provide assistance, there is no substitute for planning ahead. Some things to consider in preparing for retirement:

1. Save whenever you can, or/and invest your money early. If your employer offers a retirement savings plan, sign up for it now.

2. Budget your money. A budget checks unnecessary spending, helps you see where your money goes and frees up cash for retirement savings. Before you create your budget, think about the short- and long-term financial goals you want to achieve and be honest about the time it will take you to reach them.

3. Pay off debts, or stay away from them! High-interest debt eats up precious money that could otherwise be put toward your retirement savings. Credit cards are tremendous but the high interests are costly and crazy-go-to you!

4. Be in good health by being active and eating well. Healthcare gets more expensive as one gets older, and few organizations cover anyone beyond 65.

5. Plan your activities. Learn new things. Discover new hobbies. Develop a healthy outlook. Try not to attach your identity to the work you are doing or possess.

6. Stay connected with your loved ones and friends. While still employed, you might not be spending as much time as you want to with them. Remember, jobs come and go, but relationships endure.

(To know more about retirement issues, attend the Retire Well! learning session, Preparing your Employees for Retirement, on Dec. 3. Call 426-0131 or e-mail alumni.coe@yahoo.edu.ph for questions.)

Competitiveness takes root ...

From page B2

destiny. To date, we have covered eight provinces and cities, including Puerto Princesa in Palawan, Iloa, Bacolod, Tagbilaran in Bohol, Legazpi in Albay, Iloilo, General Santos, Baguio and Boracay.

We intend to cover at least four more provinces by the end of the year. The idea is to spread the "Gospel of Competitiveness" to the regions and generate nationwide support for the NCC. The response of our provincial stakeholders has been quite overwhelming and very encouraging.

In fact, there are many companies from global-scale industries (services) wanting to knock at the doors of LGUs as they need to locate outside Metro Manila. The challenge is for local chief executives to be more business-oriented in charting the economic development of the regions.

Even then, we have many progressive-minded LGU heads—at least 95 of them—who have been trained by the City Development Strategies of the World Bank and by the Institute for Solidarity in Asia of the Institute for Corporate Directors. For this, at least 180 LGU heads credited road maps that will enable them to attract investments in their localities that will make them globally competitive.

There are many institutions that cooperate entities coordinate to several countries to synthesize a bigger picture of the so-called "competitiveness." We try to take note of most of them. One is the IMD business school in Switzerland, whose WCY I have mentioned.

Another is the German Technical Cooperation or GTZ, which introduced an approach in the improvement in business processing and licensing systems in LGUs especially in the Visayas. The NCC is considering to adopt the GTZ approach nationwide.

Third is the World Economic Forum which is more involved in the overall financial standards of countries and their business adaptability to environment. Similarly, the E-standards Forum Foundation (EFF) of Bankers and finance leaders in New York evaluates similar parameters as the WEF.

Fourth is the International Finance Corp. which comes out with the Doing Business Report—a potpourri of 10 factors that reflect a poor state of affairs that mainly is eager regulations and bureaucratic red tape.

EFF data show that the Philippines is ranked 26th out of 41 countries in the so-called Financial Compliance Index, which has 11 key standards for "sound financial systems." Based on that rank, the country's level of compliance is "medium."

Also, the EFF ranked the Philippines 64th out of the same 41 countries in the Business Informer Index, compliance to which the country is "below standard."

However, there are signs that significant improvements have already been achieved. First is that the difficulty of getting credit for small and medium enterprises has been recently resolved by the Magna Carta for SMEs, which provides for the availability of more funds and technology from both local and foreign institutions. There are more enterprises business leaders or upgrade ISMEs in their business skills.

Second is in trading across borders in which the Philippines is already on top third.

Third is in protecting investments, in which the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development finds Philippines is already No. 1 in corporate governance in Asia. The OECD will hold its Asian Business Roundtable on Corporate Governance in Manila on July 2009, with the aim of showcasing the Philippine experience.

Competitiveness takes root in times of crisis

By Cesar B. Bautista
Co-Chair, National Competitiveness Council

COMMENTARY

DURING THESE TIMES WHEN THE whole world is in the grip of an encroaching financial turmoil, unlike a decade ago when it was only us and our Asian neighbors, we in the National Competitiveness Council continue to talk about how the Philippines is doing again in the global economic ladder.

I have been saying now and again that we can see the country rejoining the world's top one-third economies. I share conviction from the achievements resulting from three years of continued efforts from the government and private sector to rebuild our national competitiveness. So less than six working group chairmen and some 100 top business leaders—who "talk competitiveness for breakfast" everyday—have reviewed and joined hands in the National Competitiveness Council's projects.

To prove this point, the Philippines' global ranking based on the World Competitiveness Yearbook, issued by the Swiss-based Institute for Management Development, shows that the country has been gradually recovering from being in the bottom third.

In the past three years, our ranking improved from 69th in 2006 to 48th in the WCY 2008 despite a considerable weakening in the aftermath of the Asian financial crisis.

It is in this light that the NCC continues its endeavor, with initiatives slated in the next few months and which hopefully will allow us to sustain the gains that we have achieved so far.

For the rest of the year, we will continue with the NCC Provincial Roadshow, which we are conducting with the help of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and In-

CONTINUED ON B-11

THE PHILIPPINES' global ranking based on the World Competitiveness Yearbook, shows that the country has been gradually recovering from being in the bottom third.

NAVARA

BUSINESS Monday

More jobs waiting for Pinoys in UAE

SAQR GHOBASH

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE UNITED ARAB EMIrates does not want to live on oil alone.

Realizing that it is inevitable that demand for crude oil would wane as new energy sources are developed, the oil-rich nation insisted as one of the most dynamic in the Middle East made a deliberate effort over the past 20 years to wean its economy away from the easy revenues from crude oil and petroleum products.

This dogged determination to carve a new economic landscape has literally paid dividends.

Today, only about a third of the UAE's gross domestic product comes from oil revenues from a high of 75 percent in 1980. And as the share of petroleum revenues went down, the contribution of property development, tourism, retail, financial services, mining and manufacturing went up and still rising.

The UAE government has every intention of staying on the diversification path, thus the emirates will continue to rely on the help of Filipino professionals and skilled labor to make its economic plans happen, according to UAE Labor Minister Saqr Ghobash.

No fear

Ghobash sat down recently with the Inquirer on the sidelines of the recently concluded Global Forum on Migration and Development and he dispelled fears that the chance to Filipino migrant workers would close given the economic crisis roiling the world's major economies.

He said that on the contrary, demand for labor would grow, especially in the fields of health care, construction and hospitality, especially as the UAE is positioning itself to be the leisure and financial center of the gulf region.

"I do not think that the UAE faces as much difficulties with the financial crisis," Ghobash said, "The emotional effect would of course be there but the government is investing over 120 billion dirhams (US$32.66 billion) so there will be more need for labor."

The UAE, which is recognized as one of the most tolerant of other religions and cultures in the Middle East, is home to over 350,000 documented Filipino workers in the seven emirates that comprise the federation, with the bulk staying in overnight-fun Dubai and the government center of Abu Dhabi.

This is the second largest concentration of Filipino migrant workers after Saudi Arabia, where over a million are employed, mainly in the oil and gas and construction sectors.

Leading source

The Philippines, meanwhile, is just the fourth biggest source of migrant workers of the UAE. India still tops the list, followed by Pakistan and Bangladesh.

"The need will be there for more workers but the question is, have we reached the peak of our economic development? But then Abu Dhabi is also coming up, so the demand will be at it is if not more," Ghobash said.

He also noted that many employers prefer Filipinos over migrants from other nations because they have been proven to be "more skilled" and "more disciplined" in their work.

"We have had an extremely good experience with Filipinos," Ghobash said, "According to reports, Filipinos have one of the lowest crime rates. So they are most welcome and most respected."

The UAE, however, recognizes that Filipino workers have to overcome many challenges before they actually land on UAE soil to work for their families back home.

Previously, what those hardships are will be the subject of a pioneering survey to dou-

MORE B3 »

FEATURES IN BRIEF

UP Diliman forum on coating technology

THE OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR RESEARCH AND Development of UP Diliman (OVCRD) is holding a forum for the metal industry on Plasma Enhanced Chemical Vapor Deposition (PECVD) tools, 2 p.m. at the OVCRD conference room, lower ground floor, Philrotex building, CP Garcia Avenue, UP Diliman, Quezon City.

The technology, otherwise known as Titanium Nitride Thin Film Formation on Metal Substrate by Chemical Vapor Deposition in a Magnetized Sheet Plasma Source, was invented by nonet scientist Dr. Henry J. Ramos of the UP National Institute of Physics. It has been awarded a patent in both Taiwan and the United States.

The invention, which provides the advantage of a state-of-the-art Titanium Nitride coating technology that increases tool life by four to ten times, is heat and wear resistant while increasing surface hardness.

The PECVD is developed to best service those in same metal-to-tool cutting tool manufacturing, and semiconductor industry tools and metal surface coating. Welding is open to interested parties who may request to service the licensor to use the invention.

The industry forum shall discuss the technical advantages and business opportunities of PECVD TiN coating technology and address inquiries on the invention.

For questions, call 9212568 or 9212609.

Shell Energy Scenarios 2050

TO HELP think about the future of energy, Shell developed two scenarios that describe alternative ways it may develop. The scenarios show two possible routes: One, "Scramble," driven by fossil fuel energy security and short-term reactions resulting in a lot of turbulence and volatility in the energy system and severe climate change. The other, "Blueprints," sees anticipation of challenges and critical choices made early to respond to challenges. This results in a more stable energy system and much better environmental outcomes.

Shell prefers the Blueprints scenario's approach of anticipating and taking action on the emerging challenge, and is urging policy decisions that will move the world in this direction.

Shown at the Shell Energy Scenarios 2050 Forum on Nov. 18, 2008, in Makati are (from) Oriental Manila.

The speakers is Cho Dae Kheng, chief political analyst in the global business environment team of Shell International with 18 years of experience in leading and participating in country scenario projects.

Pure Foods supports Kulinarya

IN SPAIRING towards greater appreciation of unique Filipino dishes around the world, San Miguel Purefoods Company Inc., with its special grant to Asia Society and its partners Department of Tourism and Anvil Publishing, takes pride in the launch of "Kulinarya, A Guidebook to Philippine Cuisine" recently.

The project aims to put Filipino cuisine on the world map. "Kulinarya" showcases over 80 recipes widely recognized throughout the country. Six of the country's finest chefs—Glenda Barretto, Claude Tayag, Gaby Puno, Conrad Calabroy, Jessie Sincioco and Marisa Segismundo—ensured information in the guidebook are accurate, ably assisted by food writer Marinela Pena, photographer Neal Oshima and graphics designer Ige Ramos. San Miguel Pure Foods Company Inc., is the food division of San Miguel Corp.

Small business seminar set

THE GOLDEN Treasure Skills and Development Program will conduct seminars this coming weekend.

On Saturday, Nov. 15, it will conduct a one-day seminar on tie-tending and bar operations at the Harwood Blooms Delimited at 8 Anonas Rd., Proj. 3, Bacood City, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

In the hands-on seminar, participants will learn the skills like mastering the right way to open, close and maintain a bar, and stacking drinks.

Basic tools and equipment of a bar tender, preparation techniques, serving etiquette and toasting will also be discussed.

On Sunday, Nov. 16, it will hold a one-day soap-making seminar at the College of Social Work and Community Development, Magsaysay Avenue corner Yanan Street University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, at 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Topics to be discussed are raw materials sourcing and costing. Participants will be taught how to make liquid dishwashing soap, liquid hand and laundry soap, bath soap, bar laundry soap, powder soap, herbal bath soap, glycerin and hair shampoo. For questions call 4361826, 9138911, and 4211577.

DAKBIZ managing director Simon D. Mariapaz (takes hands with Edmed Rubigo I. Rodolfo Benzo during the Turnover of Diagonal Foundation's donation of P4.2M million for its Shelter for Life Program. With them are (from left) Charlie Polanco, Emilio Espinosa and Ben Galicia.

Manpower ready . . . From page B3-4

It is not only the manpower that is already groomed for increased BPO firms. Shanda boasted of fast and stable telecom connection at the Ecotourism, owing to the fiber optic technology in place, and direct connections to five global carriers, namely PLDT, Globe, Bayantel, PT&T and Digitel.

As for electricity, Ecozone expects "zero downtime." Entire campus will be connected directly to Transco, with two back-up generators and "zero tolerance" of reserve power, and a direct connection to the hybrid renewable energy power plant in Cogeney Island where it is located.

With these opportunities being unfolded in Albay, and with more reasons for the talent pool to stay put, the province may now hope for less "brain drain" and faster progress.

For instance, learning of the Ecotourism IT Park has only given Sandra Balderamos, 19, a former resolve to establish her home-career to Legaspi City.

A graduating Computer Science major at STCOT, Balderamos is an accomplished student, having qualified for a slew of training programs ranging from call center competency to online marketing to web development.

She has even been offered a training position upon graduation.

Instead of uncertainty, she now expresses excitement for the future ahead of her: "There are already a lot of opportunities offered to me, so it excited here. What more when I have graduated?" she said.

Light shines on Pangasinan island

"IT WAS a dream come true," says Simeon Tabay, 73. "I can listen to news every day on my radio. Now I know what is happening out there."

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

SUAL, PANGASINAN—WHAT ONE NOtices when approaching Cabuliliran Island here are television antennas sticking out of rooftops.

That one only means that electricity has finally reached this island.

The town is just 5 kilometers from the final power station, which has been operating for almost 10 years here.

The connection of Cabuliliran Island to the main power grid also means the province is now 100-percent energized at this barangay level.

In March this year, the island, home to 250 families (1,500 people), was energized through the Project Beacon of Team Energy, owner of the 1,218-megawatt Sual power station.

The residents started buying home appliances, like television sets, karaoke machines and electric fans, after electricity arrived on the island.

"It was a dream come true," said Simeon Tabay, 73. "I can listen to news every day on my radio. Now I know what is happening out there."

Hyginus Bascon, the village treasurer, said the island is no longer quiet at night.

"Some residents sing (using their videoke machines) while others watch their favorite TV programs," she said. "We now enjoy things that electrical power can bring."

The Cabuliliran electrification project is part of the Project Beacon (Barangay Activities for Countryside Development) of Mirant Philippines Corp., the former owner of the power plant, aimed at bringing electricity to 1,000 villages in the country.

The project has been adopted by Team Energy through its Team Energy Foundation.

Recently Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes and Gov. Amado Espino Jr. led government officials in the ceremonial switching-on of the power lines on the island.

Team Energy president Nobuko Pano turned over the project to Reyes in the Sual power station.

In 2005, Mirant provided four generator sets for Cabuliliran Island to end the residents' dependence on kerosene lamps, candles and small generator sets to light up their homes.

The four 25-kilovolt generator sets gave the residents power only from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., four days a week. Each household had to pay P55 for using the generator for four days or P220 for 16 days a month.

"Sad we can't use Lou Sotto(hold) appliances at the same time," Bascon said.

But things have changed.

"There's no limit to the power we use," Bascon added.

With two electric fans, a radio, a television set and three fluorescent bulbs, her family monthness only almost P100 month.

The island was a special case among the 1,500 beneficiaries of Project Beacon because, although it only lies 5 kilometers from a power plant, energizing the community entailed a lot of expenses.

This is because Team Energy had to lay a 2-kilometer long submarine cable, worth P25 million, to connect it to the main power grid, Pano said.

The Cabuliliran electrification project is a joint effort of Team Energy, which provided P15 million for the undersea cable; the Sual local government, which gave P10 million for laying the cable; and the Central Pangasinan Electric Cooperative, which is in charge of operations and maintenance.

"We have high hopes that the electrification project will spur economic and tourism development on the island," Mayor John Rodney Arcilum said.

The residents rely on fishing for their livelihood, but the island has white beaches, he said.

Cabuliliran is included in the last batch of beneficiaries of Project Beacon, a P1.5-billion project that started in 2004.

The project, according to Team Energy records, has provided electricity that has benefited 300,000 families.

Young realtors develop first waterfront homes

RICARDO PESIGNAN and CHIEF EXECUTIVE officer, Celebrano A. Pile, and executive vice president and chief operating officer, Ms. Dianne S. Garcia, say contrary to the perception that land value is slowly depreciating, now is the best moment to acquire property.

BANDA

The young developers say not only will land values pick up after the worldwide economic slumber, but it is now that prices of properties are reasonable.

Chay and Dennis are great optimists of their generation. They are making their way in becoming significant players with the giants of the real estate industry.

One of the projects of these two is the Mandara Residences, a low-rise, low-density residential complex with only 216 units up for sale and comprised of 12 buildings with three different designs. Mandara is the first waterfront development in Metro Manila that is 30 minutes away from the sea with a view of the coastal area, the Manila skyline and the great Manila Bay sunset. It is near the reclamation area of City, a tourist destination that boasts casino, entertainment center and commercial attractions in the heart of Roxas Boulevard, alongside the largest shopping haven, SM Mall of Asia and Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

"Very few people can claim that they have a waterfront residence, which is just one minute away from the bay area, and more importantly, Mandara comes with the right location, right price, right people and the perfect element," Garcia proudly explains.

In building this project, urban renewal and development of the country's coastal areas, especially in the Metro are Chay and Dennis's priorities among many other goals. It is Chay and Dennis's dream to begin a change that will benefit not only the developers, buyers, but also the whole nation.

"Mandara is one of the best things that has happened to the real estate industry," Dennis never relents adding, "But project is a product of an aspiration to create the likes of the havens seaside or coastal developments in United States like Miami, Daytona Del Mar in Southern California, the Southborough in Australia, or the Murcia which neighbors Costa Almeria in Spain."

Mandara Resort is a business unit under Landmark Communities Inc., one of the sister companies of Ramon Inc.—both under the leadership and management of Chay and Dennis.

Landmark has been in the business for only more than two years.

The people behind Landmark Communities Inc. are strong pillars of the real estate industry. "Our strong partners of the real estate industry are the reasons today we can stride their support, the company and our buyers are in good hands," Chay quips.

According to them, Mandara is going to be another first in the Philippines and will eventually serve its purpose—to raise the quality of urban living and create a new definition of luxury.

More jobs waiting for Pinoys in UAE From page B3-1

unions host practices in the management of support workers. The two-year project details the repression of 3,000 workers from the Philippines and India will kick off in January next year.

The UAE is spearheading the project in collaboration with the governments of India and the Philippines with inputs from the Arab Labor Organization, International Labor Organization and International Organization on Migration.

"We will be able to share a lot of lessons from the results of the survey. We want to know what are the workers' fears, what they have to go through from the time they get back," Abdullah said.

"The overall goal of the project is, to put it simply, to run a range of practical measures that will serve to improve the quality of life and work of contracted workers," he added.

UAE is looking to make it worthwhile for workers to stay in the economy because it has to compete for talent with other countries.

It also hopes that by making workers "happy" they would become more productive, which should redound to continued growth for the gulf state, where four of five residents come from other countries.

ABOVE: view of Dubai Mall, one of the world's largest shopping and entertainment destinations in the booming Gulf state.

Introducing the new

15-inch MacBook Pro.

The next generation of notebooks.

The new 15-inch MacBook Pro is thinner, more powerful, and years ahead of its time. The stunning, ultrathin LED-backlit display gives you instant full screen brightness. NVIDIA graphics provide even faster performance. The all-new, smooth glass Multi-Touch trackpad is clickable everywhere, so you have more control and more room for new gestures. It's not just the next generation MacBook Pro, it's the next generation of notebooks.

Check out our stores today and experience the future of notebooks.

List of Resellers: Manila: [illegible]

Cebu: [illegible]

Davao: [illegible]

Authorized Reseller

[illegible]

BUSINESS Monday

Manpower ready for Albay IT park, BPO locators

By Jerome T. Gazzil
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—WHEN ALEXANDRIS DIOnio, 23, graduated here with a degree in computer engineering, one of his first considerations was to move to Metro Manila to look for work.

The knee-jerk reaction for most fresh graduates in the province is to migrate to urban centers for higher-paying jobs or more specialized employment.

But not wanting to leave his wife and his child, Onio opted instead to settle in Legazpi City, eventually landing a job as a webpage developer and content writer for United States-based business process outsourcing (BPO) firm tied with the Southern Luzon Technological College Foundation Inc. (SLTCF) here.

THE $6.2.5M-PESO Embarcadero IT Park is seen to become a modern commercial hub and a new tourist destination in Albay province. PHOTO BY [illegible]

Unfortunately, these firms consolidated operations in Metro Manila. But all hope was not lost for Onio.

Recently, SLTCF had also been facilitating manpower for the Embarcadero Information Technology Park currently being constructed at the city port.

SLTCF president Ilustrisimo Ilay said the school will be one of the lessees in Albay's very-tech IT park, possibly along with several three other BPO firms still under negotiation.

Ilay said SLTCF will be passing these accounts to Embarcadero. One for outsourced web development, another a financial account for an Australian company and another a call center for a foreign telecoms firm servicing US and Australian clients.

Onio and 30 others have already finished training for an online marketing account currently being hosted by SLTCF. Another class has been groomed for call-center operations.

Excited with the Embarcadero prospects, Onio said: "Legazpi City is starting to come alive. We no longer need to try our luck in Metro Manila to earn enough. Now, what we can earn in the province is enough for our family's daily needs, without having to leave them behind."

Embarcadero

Assembled by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority in an economic tourism zone with IT component, the P1.8 million bay front commercial and IT complex being developed by the Sarmen Group of Companies here is expected to open more than 2.5 hectares, with several nine buildings to be utilized for shopping and leisure activities.

But due to the increasing interest being shown by BPO firms, what was once an "IT component" in the original plan has been expanded into its own park, with about 15,477 square meters of the shoreline reclaimed for three more buildings with four to seven floors, said Jessie Sarmenga, president of Sarmen subsidiary Mindlit Land Inc.

Sarmen IT manager Albert Ilesada expects the IT park will draw in data centers and BPO firms offering services ranging from the standard call centers, to web content writing and web development, to legal and medical transcription, to fashion services such as accounting.

When the park is fully operational, hopefully by summer next year, the call center facilities alone can house 8,000 seats or 24,000 agents on three shifts.

"This would translate to approximately P240 million to P480 million in monthly salaries at P30,000 to P50,000 monthly wage for call center employees," Mayor Noel E. Rosal said.

Tourism Secretary Joseph "Joe" Durano, during the Monday ceremonies on Aug. 8, estimated that 90 percent of Embarcadero employees will be the city locals themselves.

Classrooms

Currently, around five buildings are being built, one of which will house the initial 100-seat call center and training classrooms constructed so by SLTCF.

Aside from the accounts they will host in Embarcadero, SLTCF is also already hosting accounts dealing with online marketing, copywriting and web programming, its three school. They urged interested applicants to train for them.

Perhaps unbeknown to most locals, the Department of Trade and Industry has pegged Legazpi City's One-Town-One-Product (Otop) as Information and Communications Technology (ICT)-enabled services.

Legazpi will soon fully embody that tag, with the local government and institutions like SLTCF already hard at work equipping the available manpower with specialized, high-end training.

"What we want is when the lessees come, we will already have a trained pool of manpower. And we're not limiting ourselves to call centers. We're also familiar with back-room operations and other technical needs of the e-commerce industry," Ilay said.

He cited three scholarship trainings ranging from online programming, to strategies for optimizing online marketing, to computer-aided design.

"Currently, we have trained around a thousand, some of which are employed, some undergoing additional training for other specializations. Our ongoing pool for training is around 2,000," Ilay said.

MANPOWER 33

ARAW NG PASASALAMAT

A special day of thanksgiving on November 14, 2008
at the AFPCOC in Camp Aguinaldo.

Araw para sa Kawal.
A day of celebration dedicated to the men and women
of the three branches of the Armed Forces of the Philippines – the Army, Air Force and Navy.

Pasasalamat sa Kawal.
A day to show appreciation for their hard work and sacrifices,
and for their unwavering commitment to serve the country.

Highlighting the event is the Awarding of Legal Aid to the first batch of recipients.

Lingap Kawal Foundation is a non-stock, non-profit organization
which was established to provide services and assistance
to the members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Para sa sundalong Pilipino
na nangangalaga para sa bayan.

LIFESTYLE Arts & Books

Para sa masarap na panalak, mag-Dunkin' Donuts

Onstage, each other's keeper

By Globe Cadiz

I'M NOT INFATUATED TO believe that Audie Gemora and Michael Williams—that formula theater actor/singer and alternating Scrooge in Rep's forthcoming musical "A Christmas Carol"—shared the same DNA in a past life.

There seems on stage are a good gauge. Consider: Gemora joined Repertory Philippines in 1970 in "A Chorus Line." From there, he quickly established himself as one of the company's lead "triple threats"...

ELIMINATE YOUR SPEECH WOES
CLASSES • COACHING • TRAINING
WILMA CRUZ TAGALOG

BPI
PLAN THE PERFECT WEDDING. SAVE-UP NOW.
BPI Save-Up

Nokia N96
Surf the net with a full web browser
Search and browse at Wi-Fi hotspots or connect with up to 3.5G speed to a world of information. Get the latest news via RSS or the full web browser. Download heaps of content like photos, videos and music and upload your own content to Share on Ovi (share.ovi.com).
NOKIA
Nseries
OVI

Onstage, each other's keeper

From page C1

who could sing, dance and act, **and he dependable mainstays** in season after season of Rep's crackerjack musical comedies and light dramas.

By the time Michael Williams joined Rep in 1984, with a small part in "Woman of the Sun," Gemoya had gone to New York for a breather.

The following year, Rep swapped "A Chorus Line," Williams' one part of the cast, novel, as Gemoya remembers it, for **gut feelers from colleagues about** this new kid he didn't know "who couldn't throw so much of me."

Williams himself recalls, "When I was rehearsing 'A Chorus Line,' Monching [Leandro Mongcopa Feliz] and Aster [Hontanosas] were laughing and telling me I was like Ancilla!"

Unthinkable

When Gemoya came back and cornered Sir Rep (some, for real) Williams would be thrown together in a few plays, though never in the same role.

Then, in 1986, together with co-actors Nonie Buencamino and Glen Wilson, the two did something unthinkable: They leapfrogged and joined Soraya Padilla's production of "Forever at Lanai" for UP's resident theater company Tanghalang Pilipino.

This was still a time when local theater companies were exclusive zones: themselves, each grimly territorial of its own niche in a very small industry.

Rep had its own audience, repertoire and actors—all quite distinct from those of Peta, TP, Dulaang Sapi sa Teatro or Bulwagan Tinio's Teatro Pilipino. Crossing over from one company to the other wasn't only highly unusual, it was frowned upon.

Gemoya and Williams' audacious move earned them the ire of the late Rhea Amadeo, Rep's legendary founder and artistic director (she "frowned and Old Lara," Gemoya would say) as well as Rep productions again until his return to the fold as Inspector Javert in "Les Miserables" in 2003.

His alternate in the role: Michael Williams.

Rapprochement

It was the first time for the two actors to share a role, and it came by accident. Gemoya had reached rapprochement with Rep by saying yes to doing Javert. But since he was touring Japan that year as Simeon in Ryan Cayabyab's musical version of "El Filibusterismo," again under TP and Padilla, he couldn't do the six half-runs.

He urged Williams, back in the country after "Miss Saigon" in London, to alternate with him. The role called for a bass-baritone—Gemoya's range. Williams, a lyric tenor (he's now a high baritone), was hesitant, but Gemoya was sure he could do it.

"Those days, some people resented Mike Williams' triumphant turn in that "Les Mis."

It wasn't for lack of trying on Gemoya's part. He was able to perform the role when he came back, but barely. "Napilayan siya, so Michael did most of the rest," he recalls.

WILLIAMS (inset) and Gemoya alternating as Don Quixote/Alonso Quijana in "Man of La Mancha" (2006)

Heavy-hitters

Peter "Les Mis," is become almost axiomatic for Rep to turn to the two actors when it needed heavy-hitters to share male musical parts.

There was Billy Bigelow in "Carousel" (1996); Don Quixote/Alonso Quijano in "Man of La Mancha" (2005); Captain Von Trapp in "The Sound of Music" (2006); and now Scrooge in "The Christmas Carol" (music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Lynn Ahrens), which opens Nov. 14 at Greenhills 1.

Despite the inevitable comparisons arising from such tight assimilation, Williams and Gemoya say they aren't bothered.

"We've paid our dues; people know who we are by now," says Gemoya. "We don't have to 'prove' ourselves anymore, so there's really no competition between us."

Through years of familiarity with each other's skills and habits, they've arrived at a mutually helpful working style in rehearsals—essentially filling in for each other whenever one can't make it. They don't even consciously try to make each other's interpretation different.

"Why reinvent the wheel?" says Williams. "If he's doing something good and truthful, why run away from that just to be different?"

"Besides," says Gemoya, "Tita Baby [Barrios, Rep's artistic director and A Chorus Line director] tells us, 'You will never attack the role the same way, because you're two different people.'"

As to why they seem to have become each other's doppelganger onstage, "I think it's because we've two of the most senior actors around," he adds. "We've the most experienced, at least in musical theater. We have roughly the same background."

Parallel

Even their siblings' preoccupations appear in one on parallel tracks. Both have found fulfillment in sharing their skills with a younger generation of theater aspirants.

Gemoya's years away from Rep allowed him the time to train his own theater company, Trumpets, which staged the original musicals "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" and "The Little Mermaid." Now he's running a talent management firm, Stages, which also recently **musicals now and then** ("High School Musical" in 2007, for encore "West Side Story" this year).

Williams, meanwhile, aside from work in non-Rep productions like New Voice Company's "Into the Woods" and the Philippine Opera Company's "Master Class" (he directed both the 2006 and 2008 stagings), **is at** the helm of a new community theater initiative in the Alabang area called Theater Down South.

"It's a different joy than I feel teaching kids," says Williams. "This year alone, I handled some 200 children!"

Gemoya agrees. "At this point, I also find more joy training kids. And it's giving somebody like Morelyn her break as a director. I'm 'Wes Side Story'], rather than just hogging the limelight."

So what makes them decide to leave all that and act again?

"Because Tita Baby asked me, and it's always like a coming home for me," says Gemoya. "We have a very young cast in 'A Christmas Carol,' and I think the pure **reasons like us** there to their kids are most true to."

"Going back is going back," agrees Williams.

Sounds like they're not quitting the stage—or their long-running face-off—any time soon. High-five, brothers.

Rep's "A Christmas Carol" runs Nov. 14-Dec. 31 at Greenhills 1, Ayala Mall's, Makati City. Call 8876718 or 4810999 for ticket inquiries.

E-mail gmabe@inquirer.com.ph; visit www.gilbertoabe.com

"WE DON'T have to 'prove' ourselves anymore, so there's really no competition between us."

Nokia N96

Watch videos in high quality

Immerse yourself in entertainment. Watch news, sports or comedy from Video Center or even live TV. With its big screen and superb sound, you can view your videos first-class.

NOKIA
Nseries

© Nokia 2008

Interactive one-man musical play at Mogwai

"THE BOOK OF BOYS," THE second installment of the Benjamin Trilogy will be launched on Nov. 16, 9 p.m. at the Mogwai Cinemadeepar at the Mindkina Ilaw Bapo in Cubao, Quezon City.

Next launched as a release set called "The Benjamin Run," the first installment was launched in the West End Sing-along Bar on Shaw Blvd. in December 1995.

THE was first presented as a legitimate theater piece with two performances at CCP's Tanghalang Huseng Batute in March 1995.

Theater artist Benjamin plays "Benjamin" in the first act, and "El Patrimonio," a reflection on the popular nonmusical icon "La Patrimonio" during Gen. Franco's time in Spain, in the second act.

Using five books of the Bible as springboard, Benjamin sings about his life and times in the theater—how, as a young writer, producer, director his plays allowed him to encounter the fallouts. But this was later challenged by his middle-aged alter-ego, El Patrimonio, like who is standing him in a vision of Our Lady of the Wounded Heart threatening the Philippines through her tears with "The Indings."

Production design is by Benjamin Guzman; hair and make-up by Cladeng Flores; lumar management by Jon Garcia Arines; sets and direction by Benjamin Chicote Garcia.

Other performances are Nov 17 and Nov. 24 at 9 p.m. For tickets, text Txt2Movie at 09.05.807.3726 or log on the gate.

'Masculadoll': New humor book

MEGAMES PUBLISHING INC. has released "Masculadoll: Mga Isaisipin ng Bidyo Dialog sa 10 Buking," a collection of hilarious and insightful essays in Filipino, on gay Filipino life by Louie Cano.

The title refers to muscular guys who are into pumping iron in gyms, a category to which the author belongs by virtue of his self-description: "Maliit, dyang bruha, pero may kalik pa siya ng Madonna," Louie Cano is also the author of the widely-read collection of essays in English on the gay life, "Bruha Pink, Ring-dong Fabulous & Other Queer Tales" and the first dictionary of the gaywiki Filipino gayspeak, "Bakla: Pinoy Kiyeme Dictionary."

The titles of the essays in the slim volume dearly signal the freshness and verve of Cano's writing in Filipino, with: "Diva mo-dels, siyam pulgada," "Majora," "Mga mediyong bakla sa telenobe-rondas," and "Nyerning Ito."

The cover is by Alvin Buhayanda and the book design is by Amanda H. Ibañez.

"Masculadoll" is available in all National Book Stores, PowerBooks and other major book stores at 975.00 each.

Call 721-4411, E-mail: mills-cm@pldtdsl.net, or visit http://realfictionline.blogspot.com.

THE SURPRISE HIT THAT TOOK THEATER audiences across the country by storm is back for one night Tuesday this December.

"Tuesdays With Morrie," the play by Mitch Albom that he adapted with Jeffrey Hatcher from his own best-selling book, will be performed at Onstage, Greenbelt on Tuesday, Dec. 2, 8 p.m.

Bart Guingona reprises his role as Mitch Albom opposite Miguel Faustmann's Morrie Schwartz.

When the play opened for an initial run of 12 performances in January, little did anyone know that it was going to have a long fruitful run ahead of it. After it closed in Metro Manila, "Tuesdays with Morrie" had six shows in Cebu, packing in a 1,500 seater each time. It then moved to Pampanga, Alabang, Dumaguete, then back to Makati, Cagayan de Oro, and Alabang.

The bestselling book by Mitch Albom was turned into a TV movie by Oprah Winfrey after she had achieved a five last reading club. It was subsequently adapted for the stage, and has been performed in various productions around the world.

Tickets are available at Ticketworld 891.9999, or text 0917-5289746.

Nokia N96
The web. Now made by hand.

Create the news from the palm of your hand.

Capture a moment. Capture a story. Capture the world's attention. Record an event and share it instantly. Upload your footage and write in your blog. Then geo-tag your 5MP photos with built-in A-GPS & show them on Nokia Maps or Share on Ovi (share.ovi.com).

Tonight, the news will be created by you.

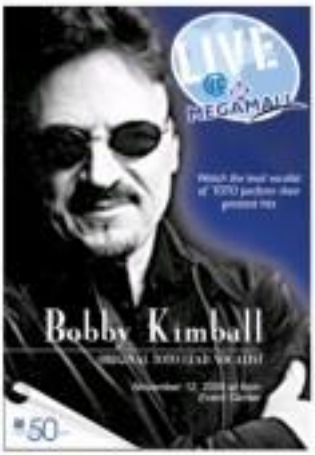
Shoot. Tag. Blog. Vlog. Upload. Share.

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

CESAR Montano

Let us now praise famous Visayans

'Si Lapulapu, si Rosas Pandan: A Bisayan Musical Extravaganza' presents a galaxy of talents on Nov. 22 STORY ON PAGE D3



"You did not just teach us, you improved our lives."
- Greg Lintag
P2,500
Study at
VERNON TAPALLA'S

VRP
VICTOR R. POTENCIANO
MEDICAL CENTER

"I scored a big victory over my diabetes!"

In your golden years you need the right balance of care and cure to stay in the prime of your health, this you can get at VRP Medical Center. For 35 years, we have been caring for generations of families. From cardiology to respiratory to surgery. Everything you need to be healthy and stay that way is here in VRP Medical Center.

At VRP Medical Center you can get more services with your budget and HMO coverage with the same international quality standard.

Control diabetes before it controls you

One of the most common health problems in the country today is diabetes which can cause heart attack, stroke, kidney and blindness.

Early indications of having Type 2 diabetes include high blood pressure and overweight. It can also be genetical. The best prevention against diabetes is being informed about it and to take early action before it's too late.

In celebration of the **World Diabetes Day**, VRP Medical Center will give **10% discount on Fasting Blood Sugar and Glycosylated Hemoglobin Exam** from Nov.1-30, 2008. For more information, call 721-4001 loc.205.

35 years

San Agustin music festival honors Fray Urdaneta

THE PHILIPPINES' WORLD Heritage Site, San Agustin Church, a rich repository of historical and sacred artifacts, will stage its 10th San Agustin International Music Festival Nov. 18-20 at San Agustin Museum, Intramuros, Manila.

The festival is being held in connection with the 85th death anniversary of the Augustinian Fray Andres de Urdaneta, navigator and navigator of the 16th century who was instrumental in the expansion of the Christian faith in the Philippines.

"Music lovers will find delight in this unique experience of appreciating sacred, classical music with our guest conductors, maestros Jose Ernesto Bilbao and Spanish tenor Jose Maria Bermejo, with the College of the Immaculate Conception Chorale of Calamba City, Dining Rit Work Youth Choir, the Philippine Women's University Chorale, PPO principal trumpeter Evaristo Pedro and the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra," said Fr. Pedro G. Galende, OSA, director of San Agustin Museum and president of the Urdaneta 500 Philippine Commission.

Visitors will also have the rare opportunity to listen to the music of the Pipe Organ of San Agustin Church, the biggest baroque Spanish organ in the Philippines. It dates back to the 18th century.

In honor of Fray Urdaneta, the music festival brings to light his life as a young boy who joined many expeditions to Spain and Mediacon, Rome in Orihuela, Guipuzcoa, Spain, circa 1508. Urdaneta spent 10 years in the Moluccas and returned to Spain to present to the king his report on the spices and his studies on the winds and sea currents.

From Spain he traveled to Mexico and joined the expedition of Don Pedro de Alvarado. He later carried out several governmental assignments as corregidor and visitador in the region of Ocuite, where he met several Augustinian friars from the Villalobos expedition. He embraced the religious vocation and joined the Augustinian Monastery of Mexico City in 1552 and served as a priest for many years.

Because of Urdaneta's navigational background, King Philip II of Spain ordered him to conduct an expedition to the Philippines to expand the Christian faith and to find a way to return to Mexico, the so-called tornaviaje. He and Miguel Lopez de Legaspi left the port of Navidad on Nov. 21, 1564, and arrived in Cebu on April 27, 1565.

A few months later, Urdaneta departed from Cebu and heading northward in search of favorable currents before tackling south, landed safely at the port of Acapulco. He revealed an extensive knowledge of the Pacific Ocean. He found the safe route to Mexico and, indeed, the West with the East, which gave way to the birth of the route of the Manila-Galleon.

After serving for several years as Augustinian master of the novices, Urdaneta died in the Augustinian Monastery of Mexico City in 1568. He was 66. Three years later, in 1571, Legaspi founded the "Loyal and Ever-Royal City of Manila."

President Macapagal-Arroyo has declared 2008 "The Year of Urdaneta."

The San Agustin Music Festival is supported by the Embassy of Spain, Agencia Espanola de Cooperacion Internacional para el Desarrollo, Instituto Cervantes, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Unesco National Commission of the Philippines, Urdaneta 500 Philippine Commission, Government of Orihuela, Department of Tourism, Intramuros Administration, DZFR 99.5, Vibal Publishing House, and Friends of San Agustin Museum.

Call 5271860, 5286794 and 5286795.

PHILIPPINE Philharmonic Orchestra

SPANISH tenor Jose Maria Bermejo

FILIPINO trumpeter Evaristo Pedro

SPANISH conductor Jose Bonifacio Bilbao

Mandarin Oriental holds 'Piazza Puccini,' night of arias

THE JOHANN STRAUSS Society of the Philippines, with the Italian Embassy, presents "Piazza Puccini," a grand concert celebrating the works of the illustrious Italian composer from Modena, Giacomo Puccini, on his 150th birth anniversary.

The concert will be held at Mandarin Oriental's Manila Ballroom Nov. 28, 8:30 p.m.

Held with the support of Mandarin Oriental, Swire International Airlines, Cultural Center of the Philippines and Crestwick Shipmanagement Philippines Inc., the black-tie concert caps the eighth collection of the Italian Language in the World celebrations Dante Alighieri della Lingua Italiana spearheaded by the Italian Embassy with this year's theme focused on the "piazza."

FRANCO Bocconi

MICHELLE Gierolini

ANNA Caterina Antonacci

ERNEST Hunsal

A spectacular set design featuring the Piazza Pacchioni makes a dramatic backdrop for the scintillating Puccini numbers that include arias from "Madama Butterfly," "Tosca," "Gianni Schicchi," "La Fanciulla del West," "Turandot" and "La Boheme."

Foreign artists perform with Filipino talents in this concert that will feature arias from selected operas of Puccini. Award-winning Italian soprano Anna Caterina Antonacci and tenor Franco Bocconi perform with two of the Philippines' most awarded sopranos, Rachelle Arevalos Asprer, conductor Ernest Hoedl conducts the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra.

Multi-awarded Caterina went in various vocal competitions, among them as Toti Dal Monte, Operalia II in Madrid, Sanrio Comunale of Modena and Accademia Rossini in Pesaro. She has performed in various theaters in Italy and many others in Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Holland, Cairo and Los Angeles. The Milan-born soprano who lives in Rome began her singing studies at the Rossini Conservatory at Pesaro, and completed her technique under soprano Margaret Baker Dawson and Joseph Guarilia in Rome.

Versatile tenor Bocconi has sung in theaters in Rome, Torino, Bari, Chieti in Australia and in many European cities. He studied under maestro such as Rodolfo Celletti, Leone Magiera, Sesto Bruscantini, to name a few.

Gierolini has performed lead roles in over 20 opera productions in the Philippines, USA, Japan, Singapore and other countries in Asia Pacific. Early this year, she performed the role of Lio in the Solaspo Wien production of "Turandot."

Hoedl, often regarded as Austria's Ambassador of Music, conducts the Philippine Philharmonic with whom he has performed many times, as he does with other 30 great orchestras around the world. The multilingual conductor holds Master of Music in Opera Conducting from the University of Texas where he was a Fulbright scholar. He currently teaches Music History and Conducting at the University of Music and Dramatic Arts in Graz.

Tickets available at the Lobby Shop of Mandarin Oriental. Call 7908888.

Besa, De Guzman in dual recital

DUO PIANISTS DELLA BESA and Annmarie de Guzman began their music partnership in a St. Cecilia's concert in 1973. Since then, they have performed in 70 concerts here and in Washington, New York, Chicago and San Francisco in the United States.

MCO Foundation presents them in a concert Nov. 16, 7 p.m., at Francisco Santiago Hall, Bocco de Oro, Dela Costa Street, Makati, in a recital program of Chopin, George Gershwin and Cole Porter songs, Filipino love songs and a duo-piano composition featuring themes of romberdie.

ANNMARIE de Guzman and Della Besa in concert

2008 St. Cecilia's Concert

THE 2008 ST. CECILIA's Concert will be held Nov. 23, 6 p.m., at St. Cecilia's Hall of St. Scholastica's College, Leon Guinto.

The St. Cecilia's concert is a time-honored tradition in St. Scholastica, which began in Nov. 22, 1923. Held yearly on the feast of the Patroness of Music, St. Rupricia Bartig endeavored to make these concerts enrich the musical life of the community while promoting music, and the musicians trained, nurtured and graduated by the school.

This year's concert also commemorates the bicentennial of St. Paul in the performance of the Paulus Oratorio by F. Mendelssohn. Ms. Louie del Mundo conducts the St. Scholastica's Chorale, the Ateneo Glee Club and the Manila Symphony Orchestra. Prominent soloists are Josef del Pierro as baritone; Camilla Lopez Molina as soprano and Pablo Molina as tenor. Antonio Molina, violinist and assistant conductor of the Manila Symphony Orchestra, premieres Donati ni Ringkjell's hymns in B minor which premiere Greg Dolotyn is assisting artist.

The St. Scholastica's Guitar Ensemble with the Guitar Friends, a group of businessmen and music enthusiasts, will perform choruses from Antonio Carcerra, Leonard's "Nabbucco," Andrew York's "Latin Kisses" and "Bizet."

Win free tickets to Rihanna, Chris Brown hot, hot show

SOME TICKETS TO THE Saturday concert in town at Globe treats Rihanna and Chris Brown fans to ticket discounts and freebies! With Globe, you can just win your tickets on Nov. 16 at Manila's Global City Open Field, Taguig.

Register to the WITTHEFUTURE365 promo, text <REG first name/last name/ address/ birthday in mm/dd/yyy/ gender> to 2882. You will receive a confirmation message after you finish the process. Show this message from 2985 to any ticket World outlet nationwide to avail of the discounted rates. As a refund Globe/TM subscribers, you can get a Platinum ticket for only P6,000, Gold ticket for P2,000, Silver ticket for P1,500 and Bronze ticket for P500.

You also have a chance to win free tickets for the entire barkada. Showcase your best Rihanna and Chris Brown-inspired look photo at the 24seven.com.ph website via the Connect-with-Pau's-2Pix promo.

After posting your photo, have everyone in your barkada post a vote on the 24seven barkada scoreboard what the coolest thing is about your group. Entries will be judged based on originality and creativity and your barkada's overall "coolness" factor.

Top three barkadas will win free tickets to the concert. Globe will be giving away a minimum of two and a maximum of seven tickets for each winning barkada. The grand-prize winner can win as many as seven Gold tickets worth P21,000 (P3,000 each). First runner-up can win as many as seven Silver tickets worth P11,200 (P1,600 each). Second runner-up can win as many as seven Bronze tickets worth P4,200 (P600 each).

For more information, text BCB to 2222 for free or log on to www.2four.com.ph.

Mandac, Velasco in UP extravaganza

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES Alumni Association (UPAA), Inc. will stage a grand musical production to celebrate UP's centennial anniversary Nov. 21, 7 p.m., at the UP Theater in Diliman.

Called "Isang Daang Taon ng Musikang Pantilipinong Awit" (One Hundred Years of World-Class Music), the affair will feature foreign-based soprano Evelyn Mandac and tenor Noel Velasco.

The concert will also feature sopranos Ana Feleo, Camille Lopez Molina and Aileen Cura; tenors Ronny Arenero, Nelyn Cabeling and Edu Perez; flutist Antonio Miguel, guitarist Lester Demerillo, violinist Joseph Estrella, the UP Madrigal Singers, UP Concert Chorus and UP Singing Ambassadors, and composer Ryan Cayabyab.

Directed by Dulce Lorenzana, "Isang Daang Taon" will feature classical pieces, operatic numbers, Spanish tunes, local and international favorites, and timeless melodies woven into the 100-year history of the university.

Tickets available at the UP Ruby Office, UP Diliman, at P1,000, P500, P200 and P100. Call 9266668 and 9206871. Visit www.upalumni.ph.

Let us now praise famous Visayans

By Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

ABOUT SIX IMO, HAVE the Visayas taken over Metro Manila, which is supposed to be the "Tagalog heartland"? Why, just the other day my choirmaster, the composer Jerry A. Dadap, a true-blue Visayan from Southern Leyte, was telling us that latest surveys reveal that in the metropolis there are now more Visayans than Tagalogs, Ilocanos, etc.

Well, as a Tagalog with many Visayan friends, I can only say hooray and welcome or sayang naman, or something to that effect.

These random thoughts crept through my brains, Manila, consciousness during the recent press conference to announce "El Legado, el Buhay ni Juan Pasyon: A Visayan Musical Extravaganza." The show will be staged on Nov. 22, 8 p.m., at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. The press con was held at the CCP's Silangan Hall.

The musical event is being presented by Kadugong Bisaya Foundation Inc. in cooperation with the CCP and the Department of Tourism (which is, of course, headed by a Visayan).

ELIZABETH Ramsey

"El Legado" brings together a galaxy of artists and groups (not all are Visayans). These include Joey Ayala, Bayang Barrios, Elizabeth Ramsey Jazz, Isabelle Gervelles, Joel Ilhan Chan, Nonie Buencamino, Nabi Vega, Bonds Barreto, the Philippine Madrigal Singers, the Philippine Dance Sport Association, Ballet Philippines, Modern Ballet Dancers, the Roman Ilhanas Folkloric Group and composer Dadap's Andres Bonifacio Concert (Note Lahi!).

Slide choirmen of the ABCC—led by tenor Arsenio Alvaia and bass Erick Bolasa—will sing two Visayan canticles (seriously). They will also back up actor Cesar Montano, who plays Lapulapu, the Visayan chieftain who killed Magellan. (Bossa Pardon, on the other hand, is a symbol of Visayan beauty and virtue.)

The Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra will be led by Chino Toledo. Program director is Dodo Mihado.

The language issue arose during the press con, although not in a confrontational way. Jose "Ji" Mesias, former President of the University of the Philippines and now chancellor chair of Kalayaan College, declared that "under the onslaught of globalization, Americanization and... even say, 'Tagalization'—our indigenous languages, except Tagalog, are being marginalized and threatened with extinction."

Mesias lamented as sad that he was not against Filipino as a national language "as it evolves" (as mandated by the 1987 Constitution). But "as of now, Filipino is 95 percent Tagalog. So it is important that various regional languages should contribute to the national language."

Ballaton Bacbiga, former CCP president and now foundation president, said that Philippine culture "is not a monoculture, it is many cultures blending into one national culture."

He added: "Visayan culture is very rich. The signatures dance Tinikling, for instance, originated in the Visayas, in Leyte."

"Sa Kabukiran," by Nito Galicano a better known as a Tagalog song, Bacbiga pointed out, but it is really Visayan. Same with the popular Christian carol "Nag Pako Ay Sumapit" (with lyrics by National Artist Levi Celerio). It is original Visayan version. ("Kundyo Nag Hiraca") this song, to be sung by all participants, will say the Nov. 22 concert.

"Let us respect Visayan, regional cultures," Bacbiga concluded. "Through unity in diversity, we are able to enrich Philippine culture."

The Legend of the Seas Returns to Asia

Choice of exciting cruises from SINGAPORE & SHANGHAI

Buy 1, take 50% OFF on the 2nd guest promo on select Asia Cruise departure dates!

CRUISES on SALE!!!

JANUARY 2005 ASIA SAILINGS

Get out there!

For bookings and inquiries:
Call your preferred travel agency or Royal Caribbean & Celebrity Cruises
Manila Tel. Nos. (632) 893-2783 to 93 • 893-2867 • Fax (632) 893-2795
e-mail: rylcaribbean@singapore.com.ph • Website: www.royalcaribbean.com
www.celebritycruises.com or visit www.royalcaribbean.ph

Crispy pata. Calamares.

Inihaw na Tuna Belly. Liempo. Chichabits. Crispy Tadyang. Tanigue Kilaw. Seafood Sinigang. Bangus a la Pobre. Kare-kareng Baka. Chicken Kebab. Adobo Rice. Bottomless Drink.

Handa kami sa gutom n'yo!

www.gerrysgrill.com

Gerry's GRILL

See you at Gerry's

DELIVERY HOTLINE 421-1111

ASIATRUST BANK

DVD for your TD Promo

OPEN A TIME DEPOSIT AND ENJOY YOUR MOVIE WITH A FREE DVD PLAYER

(Promo runs from September 1 - December 31, 2004 only)

For more information about this promo, please call our Customer Hotline at 816-3777, email us at customerhotline@asiatrustbank.com or visit our website at www.asiatrustbank.com

On piano and flute: The Coyiutos

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

THE 85TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY of Robert Coyiuto, founder of Prudential Guarantee and Assurance, Inc. (PGAI), offered a fitting and meaningful musical event.

Featured artists were pianist Cristine Coyiuto, the superb soloist in Schumann's Piano Concerto in A Minor, Op. 54, and her 24-year-old flutist daughter, Caitlin Alain Coyiuto, the dazzling soloist in Poulenc's Flute Sonata orchestrated by Sir Lennox Berkeley.

With Helen Quach as the podium, the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO) regained a solid sound that translated into exciting support with the piano and flute soloists.

Opening with a ravishing rendition of Wagner's "Meistersinger" Overture, the concert was off to an exciting climax with Cristine playing a fresh version of the Schumann Concerto. She was in command to tell the three movements, and Quach's masterful baton gave the ensemble a translucent reading.

The number that ended in a standing ovation was Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 in F Minor, Op. 36, conducted by Quach. It was Coyiuto's first orchestral concert at Meralco Theater, which suddenly acquired an acoustic shell courtesy of the PGAI investor department. A special Steinbe-designed Boesendorfer piano was flown all the way from Vienna (courtesy of RDS Music Center) for the occasion.

Tribute

Why did she choose the Schumann concerto among other piano favorites?

"I have always wanted to do the Schumann concerto for many years because of my teacher Rosario Picazo," said Coyiuto. "She was the one who encouraged me to include this piece in my repertoire, as she had performed this in Vienna and received a most enthusiastic applause right after the first movement.

"In the past radio recitals I did at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, I had always tried to program a Schumann work (Dichterliebe, Frauenliebe und Leben, Fantasiestucke). Last year, my family and I visited the homes of Robert and Clara Schumann in Leipzig and Zwickau. What a wonderful pilgrimage it was, especially when I was given the singular honor to play the personal piano belonging to Clara Schumann herself.

"The Herr Direktor of the Schumann Haus even wanted me to do a recital on Clara's piano! We chose to perform the concerto in anticipation of Schumann's 200th birth year this coming 2010."

Coyiuto actually played the concerto earlier last May, at the Victoria Concert Hall in Singapore with the Buddhist Hsinglan Symphony Orchestra, also with Quach conducting. The Singapore audience gave her an extremely warm reception after the first movement and she had to do two encores.

Coyiuto said the Schumann concerto was special in many ways. "It's such an exquisite work, full of lyricism, tenderness and energy. The piano and orchestra parts are interwoven to the highest degree. It is impossible to think of one without the other."

Important part

Did she in any way influence her daughter?

"Playing an instrument has always been very easy for Caitlin. Learning to play the flute was my daughter's own personal choice. Caitlin has been studying the flute for as well as the cello under Tina Flores and piano with Virginia Leiro Villanueva for the past three years with Marlo Heldner, member of the PPO, and also with Troy Maigue, professor at the University of the Philippines. Her recent trip to New Caledonia has definitely broadened her repertoire and musical outlook.

"There is an inner connection whenever my daughter and I play together. We seem to feel and breathe at the same time, just like one person.

"My husband and I believe learning to play a musical instrument is a very important part of Caitlin's education, whether she becomes a professional musician or not. Playing an instrument gives joy not only to yourself but also to others. Music is a special gift from God that should always be shared."

Quach added: "Caitlin has a lovely clear tone and her rhythm is steady and her phrasing musically expressed. She played with conviction throughout the Poulenc, which showed her very gifted control of the flute. On the other hand, I also enjoyed performing the Schumann concerto with Cristine. We achieved a fine partnership, and all the brilliance, exuberance and artistic gentleness of the piece were beautifully expressed by her sensitive playing."

Caitlin Coyiuto and Cristine Coyiuto with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra

Mother Cristine and daughter Caitlin played Schumann and Poulenc with masterful élan

With Holiday Treats from Visa, you get to choose your perfect gift.

Get a chance to win a Trip for two to Hong Kong, Shopping Spree or a Lifestyle Makeover.

Spend with Visa and get to join with every PHP 1,000 local transaction.
Get ten times more entries if you use your Visa card overseas.

To join, log on to www.visa-asia.com/holidaytreats or register via SMS by typing: VISA<name as it appears on the card, first 6 digits of card number, last 4 digits of card number, amount of transaction, approval code, prize category (TRIP/SHOP/STYLE)> and send to 2161 for Globe, TM and SUN or 325 for Smart and Talk 'N Text.

VISA
All it takes.

THE AUTHOR'S daughter, Karenina Yuitman, on the grave of composer Robert Schumann in Bonn, Germany. Pianist Coyiuto likes the hysteria of Schumann and remembers her teacher, Rosario Picazo, playing the A Minor Concerto in Vienna.

LIFESTYLE

'Hairspray' blasts out new musical theater stars

By Chari Arespacochaga
Contributor

WE ALL SAW HOW THE teen recent "Hairspray" movie found its adorable Tracy in the person of the very adorable Nikki Blonsky. She was said to have screamed with delight in her bathtub upon hearing she found out she was to play the lead role in the movie. Needless to say, a star was born.

When "Hairspray" debuted on Broadway in 2002, in the cast with the powerhouse voice young and upcoming performers Laura Bell Bundy as Amber, Kerry Butler as Penny and Matthew Morrison as Link.

The show went on to win numerous Tony awards, and the young performers went on to become Broadway stars in their own right.

Bundy created the role of Lilla Hoodin in "Legally Blonde." Butler donned an Australian accent and some leg warmers—much to the audience's delight—in "Xanadu."

Morrison has become one of Broadway's favorite romantic leads with acclaimed back-to-back turns in "Light in the Piazza" and last year's "Sexy-swinging revival of "South Pacific."

Young pack

As Atlantis Productions' highly anticipated "Hairspray" draws closer and closer to its Manila premiere, one can't help but muscles at the future home theater newcomers will face after they begin their professional careers with this show.

Until then, they will be busy dancing and singing to the delightful music of "Hairspray."

Leading the young pack are Mudel Ching and Tim Espinosa playing Tracy Turnblad and Link Larkin, respectively.

Mudel was a discovery from tween Blue Repertory, where she played the hip-hopping nerd in "High School Musical." When she auditioned for the role, it was clear that, with her chubbiness and sheer and constant state of joy, she was perfect for Tracy.

Tim was one of the members of Star Magic Batch 13 at ABS-CBN, after coming home to the Philippines from the US. Before this, he was training as a dancer and actor with various commercial groups in California.

Giving strong support to Mudel and Tim are the rest of the Baltimore kids: Crissa Bonnin, Mimi Tayag, Chatarina Alfaro, Lea Wilhelmi, Erika Cedilla, Michael Libornarate and Kathryn Reyes.

Largely products of summer workshops and school theater and music organizations, they are brought together by their love for Broadway and affinity for the show. After all, how many shows are there for young performers to be able to perform in and play their own ages?

Mudel recalls: "I've known 'Hairspray' since I was in high school. I fell in love with it, mostly because I identified with Tracy and everything that she stood for. She was a girl who, like me, just wanted to dance, sing and perform for people. So when I heard Atlantis was going to do it in Manila, I knew I couldn't let the chance pass."

Challenges

Now that they are all past the audition jitters and are in the thick of rehearsals for the show, the challenges and responsibilities have grown.

Lea, who plays Little Inez, shares: "Rehearsing for 'Hairspray' is wonderful! It's an honor for me to be working with some of the hardcore theater people of our country."

The theater stalwarts he's referring to include Michael de Mesa, Leo Rialp, Mercedes Lauchengco-Yulo, Noel Rayos, Eberhard Kalaw and Dulce.

Mudel says: "They have been told me, 'You have to give three times what you're giving now so your story can reach the very back of the theater.' And I try to always bear that in mind."

They also recall the day when Dulce hitted her way in and out of her songs and they were just stunned into silence (an unusual occurrence in a room of hyper kids).

Says Tim: "I am learning so much from all of them and not just about performing but more about the values that give performers longevity—perseverance, hard work, discipline and time management."

Excitement

All rehearsals, of course, must end with a show. And, at this prospect, their excitement is palpable.

Christine says: "All of the elements of musical theater are hyped up and exaggerated in the highest level in 'Hairspray.' The singing is intense, the dancing is extreme, the acting is exaggerated (in a good way!), the sets are ridiculous, the costumes are adorable, and the story is just perfect, really. We promise, at the end of everything, you'll find yourself giddy and in the edge of your seat because of the euphoria that 'Hairspray' brings!"

Acclaimed director Mike Nichols, while marching an acting class, once said: "The actor's job is to say his lines for the first time. Each time."

And if the first rupture of that first time is what counts, then these young ones are all a good reason to come and watch "Hairspray."

"Hairspray" runs Nov. 14-Dec. 7 at the Star Theater CCP Complex. For tickets, call Atlantis Productions at 4927078, 4903107 or Ticketworld at 8919999.

MICHAEL de Mesa, Lea Rialp, Lisa Lauchengco-Yulo, Nikkorie, Espinosa, Ching and Dulce

IN COSTUME: Nyoy Volante as Edna Turnblad, Bobbie Dunn as Motormouth Maybelle, Mudel Ching as Tracy Turnblad, Mon Jo Lauchengco-Yulo as Velma Von Tussle and Tim Espinosa as Link Larkin

Come watch them, and be able to say, 'I saw them onstage when...'

GARFIELD — By Jim Davis

JL LIRIN — BY JESS ABRERA

FUSSO BABOY — BY PH. JUNIOR

DICK TRACY

LOVEHOOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHOCHOLO

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY — BY ETHEN PABALINAS

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBBY — BY LYRA GARCELLANO

TULOOK — BY MARA COLL

KISO MACHINE — BY MARK ABRERA

MEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORDS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SuDoKu — By Dave Green

	7	2	8				9	
6	1						3	4
		9			4	5		2
		4	3		9			8
				5				
9			4		2	3		
7		6	1			2		
5	4						8	3
	9				3	1	6	

Difficulty Level ✦

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3×3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	7	8	5	1	6	4	2	3
3	1	4	7	2	8	9	5	6
2	5	6	3	9	4	8	1	7
1	6	3	2	8	5	7	9	4
5	4	2	6	7	9	3	8	1
7	8	9	4	3	1	2	5	6
6	2	5	8	4	3	1	7	9
8	3	1	9	5	7	6	4	2
4	9	7	1	6	2	5	3	8

George Sison's 'Miracle' on second printing

GEORGE SISON'S "A MIRACLE Awaits You," a monologuous publication but an inspiration to readers "to consider obvious, dive 'down on power, prosperity and self-improvement," is now on its second printing on paperback.

Sison is the well known mystic, conqueror, poet-painter, therapist, talk-show host and author of another best-selling book, "I Am A Winner, Bring Out of the Mind."

Blaine C. Hays, DD, president of the International Inner Thought Alliance, in his introduction to the book writes: "In the quest for knowing and showing The Truth of God and Life, spiritual teacher, healer and author George Sison has thoughtfully and succinctly woven together this masterpiece of applicable ways that are simple, powerful and understandable. Anyone in left guessing what the author is writing about. No one is left wondering what to do."

George Sison's book talks about unwavering your concept of yourself ("Accept your life's challenges without complaints, and you will discover there is really nothing to complain about"), your concept of others ("Giving advice is adding vice"), your concept of prosperity ("Are your investments in the Stock Market?"), and your concept of God ("Will your thoughts of God are your prayers").

Many of George Sison's believers and followers, who come among them businessmen, career women, housewives, students, professionals, even men of the cloth, have already endorsed his book. "[He] is a genius in productivity intensifying the religious method of bettering man a modern language," writes Fr. Carlos Ilustrado of the Redemptorist Formation, Baclaran Church.

"George opens a door and a window, the view is up to you, whether you see a dream or a nightmare," says newspaper columnist Sella Tup Daza.

Says newspaper editor Lory Alonzo Magsanoc: "Everything you've always known to be true... is multiplied and celebrated in this book: the binding blessings of forgiving unwary friend seven, the endlessly rewarding joys of tithing, the loving, caring and sharing that makes everyday Christmas, the belief in God that is in you."

"A Miracle Awaits You" is now available for 30 percent less than its original hardbound edition at Power Books, National Book Store, Fully Booked, Goodwill Bookstores and at the TOPPO Call 8387071/8938444, or e-mail george_d_sison@yahoo.com.

Ken Follett's new novel

KEN FOLLETT HAS RELEASED the anticipated sequel to "The Pillars of the Earth." "World Without End" comes 10 years after "Pillars."

Meet Caris, Merthin, Ralph and Gwenda, four children whose lives are examined in themes of passion and retribution. Their stories will take you to the town of Kingsbridge, set years sometime after the cosmopolitan finished building the exquisite Gothic cathedral that was at the heart of "Pillars." While that cathedral and the priory remain the central landscape, this novel stands on its own.

The characters, descendants of the original cast from the first book, find themselves in conflict between the old and the new disciples on medicine, commerce, architecture and justice. The intriguing mix of antagonists is furiously fought as tensions from progressive minds and adherents of old ways quickly reach boiling point, set against the Black Death—the greatest natural disaster to strike the human race.

Three years in the writing, "World Without End" is touted by critics as "...well worth the 10-year wait" (New York Daily News). "The plot moves at breakneck-inducing speed... but everything is always done and put together with the precision of a Swiss watch," writes Diane Gabrielsen of Washington Post.

Watch over 90 million readers, more than 100 million books sold worldwide, and a nod from Oprah's Book Club, Follett, the master weaver of tales, has done it again.

The book is available at PowerBooks with branches at Greenbelt 3 (7376428-29), Megamall (6352858-98), Alabang Town Center (8505862-83), Eluchil Tr 3 (7527975), Shangri-La Mall (6380834-35), Robinson's Place Ermita (5071851), Mall of Asia (5360344), Fort-Ad Regency Mall (8536222), Tiendesitas (9431501-02) and SM Cubao (912-2389588/-98).

Speech school introduces new course

Vilia Elli Cruz Tapalla and Susan Main, Linklater coach

PHLIPPE CRUZ TAPALLA, director of the Wilma Cruz Tapalla Academy of Speech and Diagnosis, has recently arrived from New York City, where she attended classes at the Linklater Center for Voice & Language which was conducted at the Actors Studio. She took up intensive courses in Linklater's program, "Freeing the Natural Voice" and the "Alexander Technique on Body Movements."

These courses are originally for actors or performers but are now a must for teachers, public speakers, lawyers and executives who want to improve their breathing coordination and vocal production. Tapalla will introduce these methods in her Power Presentation Skills class soon. The class includes Fripp's Hollywood Approach in Public Speaking.

Call 7201118 and 7304708 or visit www.wilmacruztapalla.com.

Complete James Bond short stories in 'Quantum of Solace' book

TO COINCIDE WITH THE release of the new James Bond film "Quantum of Solace," starring Daniel Craig and Dame Judi Dench, Penguin Classics has brought together for the first time all the short stories in one volume, "Quantum of Solace: The Complete James Bond Stories."

The stories follow the charming but deadly 007 on dangerous missions across the globe, chasing a Cuban hitman in wild country, stumbling on international drugs ring in Rome and foiling an alluring assassin in Berlin's saloon's alley, fast cars, beautiful women, murderous plots and national secrets become part of the territory. This is the definitive collection of stories on the renowned secret agent 007.

The collections includes: "From a View to a Kill," "For Your Eyes Only," "Quantum of Solace," "Risico," "The Hildebrand Rarity," "Octopussy," "The Property of a Lady," "The Living Daylights" and "007 in New York."

Incidentally, "Quantum of Solace" is the strongest of all the James Bond stories. Fleming served up a profound reflection on longing, marriage, anxiety and passion. The quantum of solace in which the title refers is, bizarrely a mathematical measurement of love. It is a practice figure defining the comfort, humanity and fellow feeling required between two people for love to survive. If the quantum of solace is nil, then love is dead.

Ian Fleming, born in Mayfair, London, England, in 1908 was a famous author and journalist. He is best remembered for creating the James Bond character whose adventures he depicted in several novels and short stories. He also wrote some nonfiction books and the well-known children's story "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang."

Before becoming a famous author, Fleming had worked as a journalist and stockbroker. An avid fan of the outbreak of World War II, finding the war he served as a personal assistant to the director of naval intelligence, Rear Admiral John Godfrey. The knowledge Fleming acquired while working in the intelligence community provided him the background and experience needed to write such convincing spy novels.

Fleming's impressive capacity for languages greatly facilitated him as a high-ranking naval officer. On one of his intelligence missions he visited Jamaica, a place he came to love and later built a home there.

Many of the James Bond books by Fleming were actually written at his house on the north coast of Jamaica. The James Bond character eventually travels to some exotic places where he meets beautiful women with access to their guts. Sometimes Bond is caught and tortured by his enemies, but he always wins in the end and destroys the villains and, of course, gets the girl. As it turns out, Fleming's wife, Ann Fleming, at one time actually labeled her husband's books "pornography."

Ian Fleming is buried at the churchyard cemetery in the village of Sevenhampton, near Swindon, England, next to his wife Ann, who passed away in 1981, and his son, Caspar, who died in 1975. He was buried on Aug. 13, 1964, just a month before his spy creation "Goldfinger" hit the cinema screens.

The year after Fleming's death, the combined sales of his James Bond books exceeded 17 million copies.

The film "Quantum of Solace" is now showing nationwide.

Fly Cathay Pacific to Hong Kong from US$165.

This year, visit Hong Kong during the Hong Kong WinterFest period (28 Nov 2009 to 4 Jan 2009). Lots of surprises await you and your family. Enjoy Hong Kong Disneyland's Sparkling Christmas - A Royal Kingdom (28 Nov 2008 to 2 Jan 2009) that includes Mickey's Christmas Mouse, The Royal Christmas Ball and The Ice & Snow Christmas Parade.

Offer details

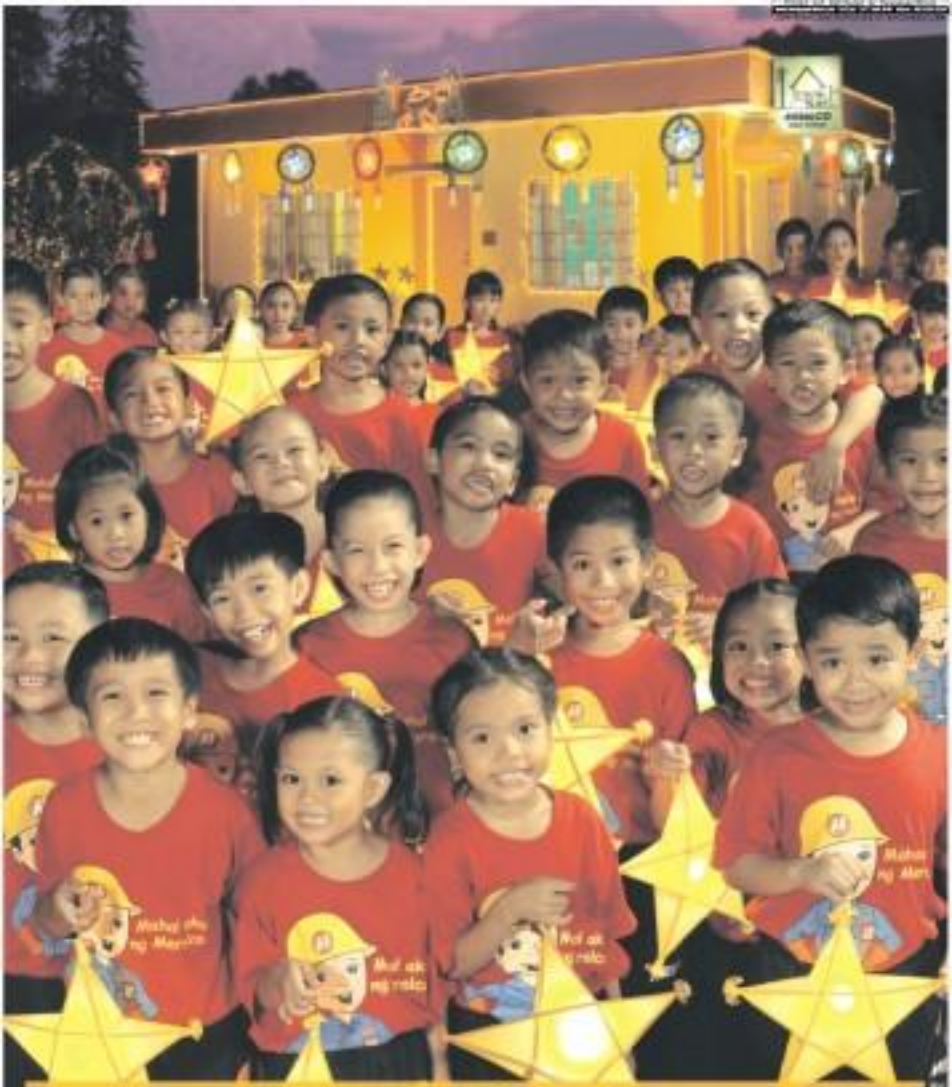
- Promotion is valid from now until 15 Dec 2008
- Fare is valid for Manila departure and does not include taxes and surcharges
- Terms and conditions apply

For more details, contact Cathay Pacific Reservations offices - Manila (632) 757 8888, Cebu (032) 231 5747 or Davao (082) 222 8901.

For more information on Hong Kong, please visit www.DiscoverHongKong.com.

CATHAY PACIFIC
www.cathaypacific.com

Hong Kong Disneyland



Magbigay Liwanag, Magbigay Pag-asa.

Makiisa sa pagpapailaw at pagbibigay pag-asa ngayong panahon ng Pasko. Sumali sa Makiisang ang Pasko walang pagpapagod sa mga kaibigan at kamaganak ng pagpapalaya ng Pasko sa pamamagitan ng makatotohanang na ilaw at pagpag-ang galaxy. Pagpag ang inyong kaibigan at kamaganak ay napaling sa mga pinakamakahuluang at pinakamagandang ang dekorasyon, makakatanggap kayo at ang inyong napiling pambatang charitable institution ng magkakaroon na gantimpala. Ayan't mag-isa na inyong Pasko para sa mga kabataang nangangailangan. Palaganapin natin ang kanilang Pasko. Palaganapin natin ang kanilang kinabukasan.

www.makiisangpasko.com

WHO CAN JOIN AND WHAT ARE THE CATEGORIES?

All Filipino individuals and teams are free to join and can have as many passages creative as needed to participate. Following are the categories of this year's campaign:

- Home category #1 : Village / subdivision homes (3 winners)
- Home category #2 : Non-village / Non-subdivision houses (3 winners)
- Churches / Christian Churches Not Limited to Churches (3 winners)

HOW DO YOU JOIN?

For you simply, just call the Makiisang ang Pasko Hotline at 1-800-1MAP Ang (1-800-1862-6526) to give your name and contact details and an appropriate photo with a house or church and the number the Makiisang ang Pasko representative the theme to take a photo of your entry. Then wait for the appointed schedule and the Makiisang ang Pasko representative drive by and you'll be entered in the following ang Pasko contest. For more details, and to download the entry form and application, please visit our website: www.makiisangpasko.com

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR JUDGING?

Following are the criteria in judging the brightest and best decorated houses and churches:

- Brightness - 40% (overall brightness and quality of lights)
- Creativity - 40% (theme execution)
- Presentation/Extras - 20% (good use of ornaments or creative materials)

WHAT WILL YOU WIN?

Houses and churches winners in this campaign will win **Php 25,000 ea** each, cash prizes, plus will be entered in a contest showdown competing for chance to attend Manila and receive Php 10,000 ea more.

WHEN IS THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD?

The campaign period starts on **November 1** and ends **December 31, 2006**. So don't wait for it! Get into it and see the cool ideas in decorating them.

HOW WILL YOU KNOW IF YOUR ENTRY QUALIFIED?

A Makiisang ang Pasko committee comprised of Manila's executive and select VIPs will screen the entries. A select 200 finalist of the most unique, creative and the closest to the Makiisang ang Pasko concept as well as making Manila's culture.

HOW WILL YOU KNOW IF YOUR ENTRY WON?

You will be contact through phone call, registered mail, website and major newspaper announcements after the contest. Final judging is on-site will be on the first week of January 2007 with invitation to the Makiisang ang Pasko Awarding Event and live web cast after.

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Oriental art of the spa on Boracay

Newly opened Kai Regency Spa at Boracay Regency Beach Resort seems to come out from a Golden Age of Chinese history, with bamboo plants, wall treatments with distressed paintings of kois and white pebbles lining the floor

By James P. Ong
Contributor

AMONG THE MANY ISLANDS IN the country, famous to the multi-jaded destination for all-night partying. For the past few years, it's also become known as a spa destination.

Basically, the only massage you could get on the island was from unlicensed ladies lugging along bath mats and coconut oils bottled in recycled mineral water containers. These days, you see the sexy hotels and resorts investing in spa facilities and programs that are worthy of coverage by even national spa publications.

The newly opened Kai Regency Spa at Boracay Regency Beach Resort is one of those picture-perfect, world-class facilities. Golden mere spas inspired by Thai motifs, or trying to look severely modern, Kai looks like it's from a Golden Age of Chinese history, with bamboo plants, wall treatments with distressed paintings of kois and white pebbles lining the floor.

It is located on the top floor of the 10-year-old Regency's Garden Wing, wrapped around a guanabanglit. It feels and you're in a traditional courtyard residence. When you look down from the third floor where the massage rooms are, you see the tropical verdure of the aqua blue swimming pool and hear the rush of water from a nearby fountain. Truly relaxing.

Special architecture

What make Kai Regency Spa so special are its architectural details and how the creators have gone through so much trouble to make it feel like it belongs in a dynamic era.

Each room has a heavy wooden door and an old-style peephole. Beside it is a tile with a faded drawing of swimming koi fish. It would have been so easy to use flashy new objects and colorful red lacquer, but the spa has tastefully opted to appear like it's part of the island's history.

The entire third floor of the Garden Wing is occupied by Kai Regency Spa, and the owners are completing the finishing touches to ensure that will also be available for consumption. That's for the new generation of the luxury tourists whose only incentive for flying to the island is not to make it to the "15 Hours and Still Counting" mailed items, but to check in a spa island.

There are honeymoon massage rooms outfitted with an outdoor Jacuzzi where you can have at an unobstructed view of the sky. Kai has 22 rooms where you can get massages, facial treatments, hand and foot care, scrubs and wraps. Each has been meticulously designed and maintained, with shiny planks of wooden floor and aroma of scented oil wafting in the air 24/7.

Among all the treatments, the most decadent is the four-hand massage where two therapists, with impeccable synchrony, work on unkinking your knots and relaxing

READING 14

GE Money Bank
A Savings Bank
PERSONAL LOANS

Want it? Get it.™

Apply now for a quick and easy personal loan from GE Money Bank.

Call us at (02) 777 8500
or log on to www.gemoneybank.com.ph

GE imagination at work

Nothing but pure milk goodness.

Selecta FORTIFIED Filled Milk

VISUAL ARTS

"BAKLING-AKYAT ng Piso," by Manolo Sicat

4 artists at Magnet

Magnet Gallery (330 Agoncillo Bldg., Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights, QC) presents "Disquiet," featuring Francis Bejar, Gino Bueza, Heidi Nacpil and Manolo Sicat, Nov. 15-Dec. 4. This exhibit features paintings and sculptures that "show images that at some level stay questions or merely present 'myths' of contemporary living" and reflects cause-and-effects to become cyclical symptoms of feeding-on-ment everyday problems, such as cancer, parental authority, the decadent nostalgic hysteria over vintage Volkswagen vehicles, drug use, breakups, marital conflicts and the energy crisis, among others. Call 6355131, email info@magnetgalleries.com or visit www.magnetgalleries.com.

Yee at Duemila

Galleria Duemila (210 Loring St., Poway City) presents "Stele/Prelude," a one-man exhibit of recent works in wood by Luis Enrico "Jaeyee" Yee, until Dec. 7. The exhibit features seven life-size wood sculptures of pre-colonial Filipino deities, embellished with colored tattoos sourced from both indigenous and contemporary iconographies. Call 8318890 or 8338815.

Ruiz at Duemila

José Teresa Ruiz presents "Tension Free-tension," until Dec. 7 at Galleria Duemila, 219 E. Lopez St., Pasay City. The exhibit hews painting, sculpture and installation art. Ruiz constructs elaborate vertical structures out of scrap wood coated with resin, attaching them to canvas. Call 8318890 or 8338815.

Various works at Metro

Metro Gallery (450-F Gorordo St., San Juan, Metro Manila) features 17 original artworks depicting family affairs and values by Lydia Velasco, Nonoteno Mirasol, Angel Cacnio, Loreto Pacayra, Oscar Saita, Flavi Salegumba, Jonito Andres, Vic Madroño, Cebu Pepito and Jun Martinez, and sculptures by Kelly Domingo and Michael Carreon. The exhibit also includes works of Tom Austria, Lolit Mococco, Pamy Baquiran, Dominga Tamondong and Elino Tolentino. Call 7260043, 0941191/0200, 9927638/4173.

Luz at Crucible

The Crucible Gallery (UMAM Center, 334 Magsaysay Ave., Mandaluyong City) presents "Before Luz 2008," an exhibit of recent paintings and metal sculptures by the National Artist, Nov. 14-28. Luz's sculptures in cold-steel metal plates with random colors like black, white, yellow and red finish pay homage to contemporary Spanish artists that belong to the group called Formento de Madrid. Call 8364881.

Lecture on Amorsolo cartoons at Lopez

The Lopez Memorial Museum and Hist Philippine Holdings Corp. will hold the lecture "The Opposite of Pleasant," featuring cartoonist José Santos Arañeta, Nov. 15, 2-4 p.m. The lecture will discuss the significance of Fernando Amorsolo's pen-and-ink cartoons and other editorial cartoons. Call 8334307.

Art workshops

Weekly art workshops will be held at Makati Cinema Square along Chino Roces Ave., Makati City, on 12 more-money Saturdays, 9-11:45 a.m. and at Hobbies the Toymart Mall Art Gallery on Pres. Quirino Mezzanine Ave., between 4205 and 4206 buildings) in Pasay City (2-4 p.m., 7313868 or 09231622298). The workshops will focus on the basics of drawing and painting.

Visaldos at ArtisCorpus

For its opening exhibition, Arte Corpus Gallery, with Metrobank Foundation, will feature "Sandhaw: Sol Kalibasan" (One Spirit: Humankind and Nature) by the father-daughter team of Jun and Olivier Visaldo. Both are grand prize winners in sculpture of the 2006 Art Association of the Philippines and 2008 Metrobank Art and Design Excellence (MADE), respectively. The show celebrates the central idea that all things are both physical and spiritual. It features rare and ceremonial dancing to celebrate the abundant and bountiful harvests and gifts of Mother Nature. ArtisCorpus is at 3031 Hag St., Makati/Ayong City. Call (1) 4861/5 4021 023 or (0917)886-8774.

UST rector Silvestre Sandoz, OP, by E.Amorsolo; UST rector Fr. Sergio Sanaya, OP, member of Quezon and Dominic, by F. Amorsolo; President Diosdado Macapagal, by F. Amorsolo; Pablo Amorsolo's brilliant depiction of ordinary Filipino life, "Sinaunang Bay," by Pablo Amorsolo

Brothers in art

By José Victor Z. Torres
Contributor

A UST Museum exhibit of the works of Pablo and Fernando Amorsolo shows that art is thicker than water

FORMAL ribbon-cutting with Cora Alonso of the National Museum and Marietta Zobel

THEY WERE BROTHERS BOTH IN blood and art.

Pablo and Fernando Amorsolo both became masters with the brush and became famous on the Philippine art scene. One outlived his predecessor until his death in 1972 and achieved fame in the Free National Army of the Philippines. The other died an ignominious death at the end of World War II, executed by guerillas as a Japanese collaborator.

Yet, both painters live on in the works they left behind—a legacy to Philippine art.

In October, the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Museum of Arts and Sciences paid tribute to this legacy in the exhibit entitled "Clergyman, Common Man: Portraits by the Brothers Amorsolo."

Guests of honor at the opening were Marietta Zobel, National Museum director Corazon Alonso, Metropolitan Museum of Manila director Eric Zerrudo, Barley Cano, and Fr. Pablo Tiong, OP, UST rector.

Fr. Isidro Abaño, OP, UST secretary-general and museum director, delivered the welcome remarks.

This is part of the months-celebration of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila for the "Mr. Art, Our Heart" Amorsolo Retrospective, which is being shown in major institutions throughout the country.

Featured in the exhibit are paintings from the UST Museum collection—portraits of the UST rectors by Amorsolo as well as images of ordinary folks and landscapes painted by both brothers.

Also on display are two documents donated by former President Diosdado Macapagal—a byzantine scene and the presidential portrait which had been a staple of textbooks and publications that featured the former president.

The UST Gallery

The Amorsolos, of course, had already made a name for themselves when UST began its art gallery in 1940 on its new campus in Sampaloc.

In 1941, months before the war, UST rector Fr. Silvestre Sandoz, OP, organized the first second painting contest. It was after this event that the museum began to collect more works by Vicente Manansala, Fernando Amorsolo, Carlos "Botong" Francisco and Galo Ocampo.

As the time, the museum had more works by Pablo than by Fernando. Only three works by the latter were acquired by the Amorsolos—the portraits of Jose Salcedo and Virginia Grasa, as well as a rural scene.

Still, it was enough for Aurelio Alonso, the museum opening's guest of honor, to comment on the master's style:

"His color schemes, his play of varying tones of shade, his rhythmic movements, his symbolic (sic) use of darkness—all these can be appreciated in an Amorsolo composition. But then Amorsolo is also distinguished as a portrait painter. His warmth, his vibrancy, his life on the skin and flesh on the canvas are best displayed on his portraits than his compositions."

The number of Amorsolo portraits would later be increased with paintings of UST rectors Fr. Silvestre Sandoz, OP, and Fr. Leopoldo Tiniayo, OP, as well as Dominican theologian, Fr. Francisco Marin-Sola, OP. Another addition came several years later with the Macapagal presidential portrait.

EXHIBIT point

Realism

Amorsolo, of course, was the name of a past era when realism was the style of art. But, as noted in the exhibit's program, the world pursued by the brothers had its drawbacks:

"Although there are those who claim that the luminous landscapes with happy, smiling farmers and blushing young ladies clad in traditional Filipino garb are mere dreams of a world where there is no hunger or darkness, some can deny the beauty and serenity in an Amorsolo landscape."

But the portraits of the brothers were something else. Again from the program:

"Along with their masterful paintings of the Philippine countryside, both Pablo and Fernando Amorsolo were consummate portraitists, able to breathe life into a canvas and bring the subject's personality to the surface. Stunned

MUSEUM PIECE: Fernando Amorsolo's portrait of Fr. José María Soto, who trained at UST and became professor of theology at the University of Fribourg and one of the greatest Dominican theologians of the early 20th century

loudmouthes that balances light and dark evokes the full spectrum of human emotion.... Even thoughtful sincerity in a presidential portrait or a young lady's sweet simple charm, from a prince's pious gravity to a stonecutter boy's quirk, sharp look of doubt...."

Whether clergyman or common man, the mastery of the brush strokes of the brothers are evident.

The UST Museum hopes that through this exhibit of just a few of its treasures, the viewing audience will gain a greater appreciation and understanding of what the name Amorsolo means to the Filipinos, and young students artists will be inspired to hone their craft and perfect their technique just as the brothers Amorsolo did.

"Clergyman, Common Man: Portraits by the Brothers Amorsolo" runs until Nov. 29. Museum hours are from 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday. Call 7813851 to 7406978.

Asian images in new Rubio show

DOMINIC HENRY PELL OPENS HIS new exhibit "Asia 1000s," on Nov. 11, at Galerie Raphael (2/F, Shoemaker Mall, Gen. Bonifacio Global City, Taguig). The show, which features 18 new artworks, runs until 7 p.m.

Pelle focuses on life in the Asian region a hundred years ago—a time of vigorous trade and cross-cultural encounters and exchanges. It's not imagining of a bygone era.

Although some of the works reveal traces of colonial reality, whether still in full swing or on the wane, Pelle's works generally highlight the thriving economic and cultural influences that happen along with the spice, silk, lace, and ceramic tradings at that time. A number of paintings make references to the political tensions of the time.

The collection underscores the diversity of personalities involved in active commerce—from travelers. Among cargo from antiques to pure ("Unloading Cargo," 48 x 84 in, oil on canvas), to a

"ILLUSTRADO Couple"

"FISHERMAN"

band of Chinese fishermen sailing into the bay at daybreak ("Fishermen," 36 x 60 in, oil on canvas), and chardonnaying everyday milestones ("Milk Stools," 20 x 24 in, oil on canvas).

One of the show's major works, a 48 x 84-inch oil on canvas painting, brings together people of various nationalities, once enclosed in one idyllic scene at the peak moment—a lavish colonial affair, a caravan in a halt or taking the place of fabric wrapped over the head as a sign of obligation devotion among Muslim women), a rickshaw driver and a lady in a new shocking-s Spanish fan. In the background are suggestions of an exotic, deeper seeking of flavor exists and beliefs in one many of the landscape, amid the buildings of ordinary Western influence, one can find a Chinese pagoda, a mosque, and a temple that represents the Christian church.

Only recently, in an auction held at the Marriott Hotel in Hong Kong and participated in by top executives, investment bankers and successful executives, a Pelle-featured artwork titled "River Cruise" sold after animated bidding for HK$210,000 (P420,000). The auction was to raise funds for the International Care Ministries, a Hong Kong-based charity that helps over 100,000 people annually in the Visayas and Mindanao. This is the second time that a Pelle work did exceptionally well at a Hong Kong auction.

Dominic Pelle was born in Paris, Laguna, and studied at the University of Santo Tomas College of Fine Arts, major in commercial arts. He first worked briefly as an artist in a multi-national advertising agency, then at the Pearl Farm in Davao del Sur. The latter also afforded him to travel around Southern Mindanao, learning about the Manobos and T'boli tribes.

Pelle has had several major shows in Singapore and Manila.

Call 8563804 or 7230414. Visit www.galeriaraphael.com.

Reynold de la Cruz's art of the gathering

By Gary C. Orolfeo
Contributor

FILIPINO GATHERINGS ARE ALWAYS exceptional not only because of their festive spirit, but also because their very concept of family extends to neighbors and acquaintances.

It is not surprising that gatherings or one venue of togetherness would be an important subject not only for sociologists and psychologists but for artists as well. Reynold de la Cruz is one such artist.

Strikingly, De la Cruz won the Philip Morris Philippines Art Awards 18 years ago, which paved the way for his exhibits in Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand and the USA. He was recently commissioned to paint the mural of Montelupa's bistro.

His current exhibit is "Sama-Sama," the title referring to people doing things together and enjoying each other's company. It was at the Saint Jude 9(1)(1982) in Sorsogon, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

"PATONG-PATONG"

Space and togetherness

In "Sama-sama" (Together), he depicts an ordinary rickshaw driver plying his route with passengers cramped inside the trishaw. The rickshaw is called a pedicab in the Philippines because it is powered by a driver as one would a bicycle.

The depiction is, indeed, reminding in terms of how the artist views and portrays Filipinos' sense of space even in this most unlikely setting. Michael Tee last week in Smoke Interior Magazine wrote about Filipinos' keen sense of their personal space with anything they have such as trishaw or decorative materials.

"SAMA-SAMA"

What De la Cruz is saying about human nature is quite different. It is not just a penchant but rather a reaction to something that is basically economic in times of crisis, people do what they can do with the limited space they have and such an attitude invokes communal support. Filipinos tend to reinvent, innovate, recreate, adapt and adopt especially in coping times, sometimes in problematic terms, such as colonialism.

"BAHAY"

In De la Cruz's "Sama-sama" we are reminded of the ability that we are basically survivors, that we can still rely on a little support and understanding from fellow Filipinos.

In "Patong-patong" (Piling Up), De la Cruz reminds us the similar theme of familial support, and yet here we see how such relations are overturned. Gone are the days when we address older siblings and elder/senior them as kuya or ate, ate or dito. De la Cruz here is probably alluding to the time when even children's games such as climbing a tree or hopscotch were similarly reversed in terms of affinity and familial relations.

De la Cruz can be considered romantic, as his painting becomes a set of critiques of our current situation, when we see more and more families today split up and the size of a family is reduced to endure such the economic crisis.

Perhaps there is an attempt not just to reminisce the bygone days but rather to think of the current situation as a challenge to us all, that we may invoke once again that communal spirit we have always had to better our lives.

"OKLOPPHA in the Garden of Eden"

Actor Miguel Castro's ancient art of papercut

ACTOR MIGUEL CASTRO CONTINUES his foray into the visual arts with a one-man exhibition of papercut, "Dilemma in the Garden of Eden," at Gallery Nine, 4-L, Megamall A. Formal opening is Nov. 18, 6 p.m.

Three years after his first solo mixed media exhibition of mask art, Castro joined the group exhibition "State of Art" at Megamall Art Center in September with a series of thought-provoking papercut under the general heading "Manila Society according to Brian Gomez."

Castro's medium is papercut art which he discovered was popular in China. He likens it to the Philippine craft of cutting paper wrappers for pasalita with intricate designs. The Chinese papercut art united (lunch) spread to the rest of the world in the 14th century but disappeared in recent centuries. Taiwan tried to revive the art in the 1980s but wasn't very successful at it.

Because of a natural affinity with paper, Mr. family's business in paper crafts for the past three generations, Castro excitedly plunged into the art even while vacationing in Australia. His early works of original landscapes were immediately bought, and he is booked for a solo exhibition by a gallery in Germany for 2009.

His "Garden of Eden" works have an irreverent show them, helping children, more primitive emotions.

Call 9106606.

KATE'S VERSE serve formulations for salt scrubs, wash and lotion

KATE'S "SPIRITUAL Vitamins," CD and accessories, as well as massage oils, are also for sale.

Oriental art of the spa on Boracay

THE RECEPTION, with modern Chinese lanterns and antique Chinese furniture, is very classy

To see page F1

your body finds treatment starts with a steaming ritual. the therapist walks around your bed with a gong and chants, "Serenity and tranquility be with you... "

If you haven't realized it, you've been welcomed into paradise.

Last month, South East Asian Airlines (SEAIR) and Boracay Regency Beach Resort teed up to celebrate the opening of Kai Ilio, a new spa, with a special promo package of P10,388 net per person inclusive of round-trip airfare, three days, two nights accommodation based on twin sharing in a superior room, daily buffet breakfast, round-trip transfers and a 60-minute well-being Swedish massage.

"We have strived to provide guests with a memorable stay on the island. With the expansion of the Regency spa, we've established our guests will keep returning for more of this great experience," said Henry Chuateng, chairman of Boracay Regency and co.

And we will.

For reservations and inquiries on flights and other best seasonal promos, call SEAIR Reservations at +632 848-0308 or visit www.flyseair.com. You may also call Boracay Regency Beach Resort at +632-525-1260 or visit www.boracayregency.com.

A TEA room, where guests stop before and after a treatment

KAI SPA'S two area for gentlemen guests comes with a bar and cold jacuzzi, steam room and sauna room.

Hadrian Mendoza's sculptural pots featured in Cebu exhibit

LAGUNA-BASED STONEWARE POTTER Hadrian Mendoza has new ceramic pieces in a one-man show at the G Gallery along A. S. Fortuna, Mandaue, from Nov. 12 until early December. It is his first time to exhibit in Cebu.

Mendoza's new pots are tall and slim. Some of them have deliberate zigzag movements. They don't sway. They have balance with rigid harmony. They all look stable. Other pieces look like houses or miniature buildings, with little openings on the side, or had opened block on top, just like a roof of a modern structure.

He has added a new variation to his old bamboo form: it is cracked or torn at the top. He has also a scroll-like piece.

"Doing exhibit stoneware pots is more problematic than working on round pieces and shaping them on the potter's wheel. I start by calculating the size of the parts of my pots. I have a game plan in putting the pieces together. It is a slower process. It's not spontaneous. In a sense, it's relaxing," said Mendoza when asked to describe how he has made his new pieces.

"I have to take care of the technical aspect of putting together the slabs for the stoneware pieces," he said, adding, "There is always a danger that parts would burst and not close when fired on the kiln." Yes, on space to host where extreme pieces are fired.

Mendoza, who has a new living-preschool for new shapes and a predicament to reinvent old and known terms with fresh twists, is happy that his cubistic pieces look more like sculptured forms.

"But they're still purely functional despite their sculptural shape. My works are meant to be sculptured and functional at the same time. My sculptural pieces are supposed to be vases, and their bottom half should be perfectly sealed," said Mendoza, who is truly worried about breakage and leakages in his works.

His sculptural pieces, fitted with natural glazes that have soft greens, hints of blues, assertive red hues, whites, yellows, oranges all the more blend with flowers, leaves and twigs.

In 1997, Mendoza studied under Jun Penyaflor, the father of Philippine pottery. He came to Manila to pursue pottery after studying at Goteborg School of Arts and Design in Stockholm, Sweden. He finished Business Management in Virginia.

HADRIAN Mendoza

Grosse Île, monument to Canada's immigrant past

WAVES OF IMMIGRANTS bravely crossed the Atlantic from Europe to the mid-19th century, packed tightly into the holds of vessels, often enduring appalling travel conditions made somewhat bearable only by a single virtue, the promise of starting a new life away from the poverty and famine of the Old World.

To fulfill their aspirations the worst life immigrants had to endure – untold hardship across the Atlantic until sailing at last into the St. Lawrence River on the final leg of a long and torturous seven voyage, the end of a long journey to attain that dream of disembarking at Quebec, their port of entry to the New World and to a new life.

But before going ashore at Quebec and into the New World there was one last obstacle.

All ships had to stop at immigrants could go through medical examination at the Canadian Quarantine Station at Grosse Île, a desolate, rocky island in the St. Lawrence River close enough to the city for distant enough to protect city residents from disease.

At Grosse Île were detention facilities, diagnostic, medical and hospital services for immigrants, many of whom carried infectious diseases picked up from the scene of epidemics that spread throughout Europe after the 1815 Napoleonic Wars.

Irish tragedy

Hastily constructed in 1832, the inadequate facilities at Grosse Île were stretched beyond their limit in 1847, when an unprecedented number of Irish fleeing the Great Famine (1845-48) attempted to land in Quebec.

Leaving Ireland already weakened by malnutrition and famine, immigrants arrived in a deplorable state, carrying highly infectious diseases and many arrived by typhus. Because the conditions reached epidemic proportions, the overwhelmed personnel and inadequate facilities at Grosse Île could no longer support the task.

Simply too weak to survive the long voyage, thousands of Irish died at sea and were simply buried in mass graves together with others who perished from disease at Grosse Île, a tragedy commemorated today by a lone Celtic Cross standing at a stone bluff overlooking the Saint Lawrence River, now known as the Irish Memorial National Historic Site of Canada.

The Irish tragedy of 1847 changed immigrant accommodation facilities at Grosse Île. The island was divided into three sections, the sick to the east, healthy to the west, and administration functions at the center.

Crowded barracks and cholera pens assured segregation of the healthy from the sick. With the new system, immigrants were forced to endure the harsh realities of quarantine but now Grosse Île was better equipped to deal with them.

Twenty years later, responding to the demand of the Canadian government for more efficient quarantine services, the medical superintendent, Dr. Frédéric Montizambert, reorganized the station in keeping with the era's latest discoveries in bacteriology.

He defined the three main roles to be performed by the quarantine station: disinfection, ship inspection, and the detention of the sick and healthy in: modernized facilities requiring ships and immigrants to subject themselves to strict health controls without exception.

Closure and revival

Two factors led to the closing of the Quarantine Station in 1937, the drop of immigrant arrivals in the early 20th century and the phenomenal advances in microbiology and treatment of infectious diseases that rendered Grosse Île obsolete.

After a short revival as an emergency transit station during World War II, Grosse Île was converted into an animal quarantine station when a government research program on veterinary pathology was instituted on the island. When the veterinary program ended in 1986, Grosse Île was declared a National Historic Site.

Now managed by Parks Canada, Grosse Île and the Irish Memorial National Historic Site of Canada commemorate the significance of immigration to Canada through the many years of Quebec, starting from the early 1900, memory and exciting sights the First World War.

The site commemorates the Irish immigrants' tragedy at Grosse Île especially during the typhoid epidemic of 1847.

It also commemorates the 100-year long role of the island, particularly as quarantine station for the Port of Québec, the main immigrant port of entry into Canada.

Finally, Grosse Île honors with its restored south of Dr. Frédéric Montizambert in the field of preventive medicine and public health in Canada.

Grosse Île and the Irish Memorial National Historic Site of Canada were restored in 1998 with the National Museum Museum of Civilization Park in Ireland. Although separated by the Atlantic Ocean, each of the two heritage sites tell in their own way the same story of hope held by thousands of Irish immigrants who left their native land for the New World.

Boat ride

The boat ride on the St. Lawrence River from Quebec to Grosse Île and just city suburbs before reaching more pastoral scenery, waterfalls, verdant hillages, and barns in autumn foliage until climbing at Grosse Boat hour later where Parks Canada officials and staff welcomed us to the Historic Site with buses at the wooden reception that formerly was one of the dormitories where healthy third-class hotel passengers were once billeted for quarantine observation. Second- and First-class passengers were assigned to better-appointed hotels corresponding to their status.

The Grosse Île story begins with a walk into the wooden 1892 Disinfection Building next to the dock, where immigrants passed through to submit personal belongings for steam disinfection. Passengers were led to double-bunk chambers and dressing rooms, original disinfection chambers, boilers, steam equipment, showers, pulpmills and silently introducing the immigrant experience beginning at the Disinfection Building.

Simple wooden buildings in the typical northeastern Ontarian style, were found quarantine facilities, treatment clinics and hospitals where the battle against infectious diseases sometimes resulted in mass death are now quiet, empty memorials and monuments that many years after its turbulent past are now set in bucolic, rural cultural landscape that is Grosse Île.

Excellent conservation and interpretative efforts of Parks Canada bring the bittersweet Grosse Île story back to us vividly today, the buildings being mute testimony to the determination and hardship endured by immigrants for a new life, a chapter in Canadian history to be remembered with thanks by the young of the country.

Email the author at *irishgrosse@gmail.com*

ETCHED into bungalow memory are the names of Irish immigrants who did not survive the torturous Atlantic crossing, to be buried in mass graves on the island's Irish Cemetery.

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

EARLY 20th-century dynamos that once powered disinfection chambers, which immigrants had to pass through, now stand silent at the island's Disinfection Building.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bronnie O. Velarde

Dora's cousin at Ayala Malls

DIEGO SANQUEZ, NICKELODEON'S AVAN-CUZ BILINGUAL HERO, cousin of Dora the Explorer, performs in Asia for the first time on Friday in Shimizu, Makati. Diego, an animal rescuer, roars in the sing-and-play-along mini musical, "Go, Diego, Go!" which is being toplined this whole month in Ayala Malls. Remaining shows: Nov 11 12, Glorietta; Nov 13-16, Trinoma; Nov. 21-23, Alabang Town Center; Nov. 29-30, Westlake Mall, Bifian; Nov. 28-30, Market Market, Taguig; Dec. 5-7, Ayala Center, Cebu. Call 750-7373.

KID FIT

Sali ka sa LIBO-LIBO, LINGGO-LINGGONG PAMASKO NG CHINATRUST Part II

Mag-loan ng Chinatrust Salary Stretch mula Nobyembre 5 hanggang Disyembre 15, 2008 at magiging isa sa limang (5) masuwerte ng P10,000.00 kada linggo at pwede pang manalo ng Laptop, Hybrid/Mini a LCD TV sa Grand Draw!

Chinatrust Salary Stretch

Chinatrust

www.chinatrust.com.ph

HANDS-ON PARENTS
At his birthday party recently, Daddy Concepcion proudly declared that he and wife Gladys personally take care of their baby daughter Sam's needs. Daddy's the one who bathes Sam every day, said Gladys. Hollywood/GJ

Concert to showcase 'Bisaya' culture, stars

By Pocholo Concepcion

A MONO VINYL RECORD [WE could tell from the scratchy sound] of Nonoy Hilomen's "May Bawoon Daye" in Bisaya, with a ukulele, wafted through the house speakers at the CCP's Silangan Hall.

It wasn't we hum the original version, since Hilomen, who was proudly Bisaya Oriental, jump-started his career in his native Bohol.

As the song played on, organizers of the concert "Si Lapulapu, Si Sikatuna Pacalat, A Bisaya Musical" — **their arrogance!** — on Nov. 22, 8 p.m. at the CCP Main Theater Claro Recto Avenue, Manila — dished out some interesting bits of music history and languages.

"Did you know," asked Bal Enriquez, president of concert promoter Kadugong Bisaya Foundation, "that the song 'Sa Kalalawon' by Manuel Velez was originally a Visayan song and that the word 'balod' in Bisaya means 'mosquito'?"

Enriquez continued, "I bit pronoid talaga, in my youth, I learned that the wedding was the national dance. Until then I had known it as a game we played in Leyte as children.... we used bamboos named after a native bird, the kiling."

He added that the classic balentic carol, "Ang Pasku ay Dumapit," was, in fact, a Tagalog adaptation of the Visayan "Kanadtu Ning Tuktuk-a." In other words, for tindiga and friends, it's coorse be Bisaya.

True focus

The richness of Visayan culture is the focus of the presentation, which will star three performers mostly from the Central Philippine region: Leo Valdez, Joey Ayala, and former Bagong Lumad band mate Bayang Barrios, Cesar Montano, Elizabeth Rainey and daughter Jaya, Vevet Verga, the Philippine Madrigal Singers, Rachelle Gerodias, Jose Mari Chan, the Philippine Dance Sports Association, Sonia Rosemarie, Rubi Vega, Dwela Barreto, Jerry Dadap's Andrea Bonifacio Choir, Ballet Philippines, Modern Ballet Ensemble, and Rizaal Obando Folkloric.

CONCERT/C3

CESAR Montano

JOSE Mari Chan

KIERAN Vergo

Tara na sa mall!

May MALL MAPS sa at YELLOW PAGES!

DPC YELLOW PAGES

Animation congress Nov. 15

Local and int'l experts among resource speakers

By Marinel R. Cruz

FILIPINO ANIMATORS BEHIND THE SERIES "Scooby-Doo!" and "Teg Hime Hunter," an unit at "Ang Panday," "The Criminal" and the full-length film "Dayo," will join fellow animators and scholars at the 2nd Animation congress to be held on Nov. 15.

The day-long event, with the theme "Tuning the History of Animation," is part of the 2nd Animahenasyon (Pinoy Animation Festival) being held from Nov. 12 to 16 and organized by the Animation Council of the Philippines, Inc. or ACPI.

"Each resource person will speak for 15 minutes on their experiences in animation. Our goal is to come up with a book on the history of animation in the country," said festival director Ave Bagan. "We hope all practitioners, production house owners and animation students would participate."

Tito Ramirez will talk about "Dayo," the full-length animation movie produced by Gaming Edge Productions Inc. Ramirez is the film's animation director. "Dayo" is an official entry to the forthcoming 2008 Metro Manila Film Festival (December).

Raoul Mimay, who helped create the TV series "Scooby-Doo and the Reluctant Werewolf" and "The New Yogi Bear Show" for Hanna-Barbera, will talk about his involvement in the foreign-owned Burbank Animation Studios and Fil-Cartoons Inc.

Gerry Garcia, creator of the "Ang Panday" anime and "Adarna: The Mythical Bird," one of the first full-length animated films produced locally, will discuss his works.

Nestor Pabustan will talk about the 3D studio Tarl Animation Philippines, and the beginnings of ACPI, where he is vice president.

Grace Ostmeyer, production director of "Scooby-Doo!" for Cartoon Network, will explain her connection with Top Dog Animation and Creative Studio, as well as with Fil-Cartoons Inc.

"DAYO"

PREMIERES TODAY!

SINE NOVELA presents

SAN DARATING ANG MGA?

JOEL TORRE · LANI MERCADO · JEAN GARCIA · JAKIE RICA · YASMIEN KURIS

Pinamatnugutan ng Kina Kung Tagalog Ang

Dramatama! sa hapon ng GMA

STILL TOGETHER. STILL LOST

MADAGASCAR ESKAPE 2 AFRICA

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555

MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA

1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
3 MADAGASCAR 2
4 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
5 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
6 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
7 CITY of EMBER
8 MY ONLY Ü
9 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3

ERMITA

1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
3 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
4 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
5 MADAGASCAR 2
6 CITY of EMBER
7 MY ONLY Ü
8 THE HOUSE BUNNY / MAX PAYNE
9 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3

METRO EAST

1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
3 MADAGASCAR 2
4 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
5 CITY of EMBER
6 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3
7 THE HOUSE BUNNY
8 MY ONLY Ü

NOVALICHES

1 HIGH SCHOOL 3
2 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
3 MADAGASCAR 2
4 MY ONLY Ü

PIONEER

1 MADAGASCAR 2
2 MY ONLY Ü
3 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
4 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE

STA. ROSA

1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 MADAGASCAR 2
3 THE CHANTING 2
4 MY ONLY Ü

LIPA

1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 MADAGASCAR 2
3 MY ONLY Ü
4 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3

DASMARINAS

1 THE CHANTING 2
2 MY ONLY Ü
3 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
4 MADAGASCAR 2

IMUS

1 MADAGASCAR 2
2 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
3 THE CHANTING 2
4 MY ONLY Ü

ANGELES

1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 MY ONLY Ü
3 THE CHANTING 2
4 MADAGASCAR 2

STARMILLS

1 MADAGASCAR 2
2 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3
3 THE CHANTING 2
4 MY ONLY Ü
5 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
6 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE

BACOLOD

1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 MADAGASCAR 2
3 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
4 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3
5 MY ONLY Ü
6 THE CHANTING 2

ILOILO

1 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
2 MY ONLY Ü
3 HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3
4 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
5 THE CHANTING 2
6 MADAGASCAR 2

Surprise nonshow biz birthday party for Gabby

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
NOW SHOWING
Movie Schedules Times Subject To Change Without Prior Notice

GABBY CONCEPCION CELEBRATED HIS birthday over in "uncharted territory" fashion last Nov. 4 at the Swiss Miss Station in Greenhills. "It was supposed to be a surprise party planned by my real manager Joy Gamara and given by my good friends Wellinda Garaway, Alex and Aida Unay," said Gabby. "Ang script ng sabi kong e Gladiss ang dinner ang date kami and ang check-up with my daughters kasi that I saw my friends in the lobby so medyo pulpol (laughs)."

He that as it may, he was still startled by the presence of his eldest daughter and high school buddies, other friends and family members. No paparazzi. No big celebrities. Only those who really matter to Gabs.

Since his homecoming last April, Gabs has been our big hunky. So on his birthday he took time to stroll the roses after hosting the dream-team reconnection he might his way.

A video of his well-wishers was shown. When it was his sister's turn to be interviewed, he put his arm around her. Gladys blubbed him. "Sister ko (babae) ang Daddy ko." It's Gabs's first birthday since his dad passed away.

We took turns in toasting and paying tribute to Gabs. Everyone agreed that Gabs should try comedy more. He flunks humor in everything.

The charming owner of the club (which Gab endorses), Jimmy Alfonso, says, "People want to buy the same shirts that Sabs wears in his show. Gusto nga nila pag minsang mim dito sa atmin si Gabby."

Gabs was the picture of an "affirming soul" when he fed Sam. His adorable B'yonteens will soon be his TV set. To keep the memories, Gabs requested me not to give Sam's pic yet.

"Sam like his dad. Sam loves being around people. She doesn't like to obey ang may party yn. Everyday Gabs is the one who bathes him," said Gladys. "We are both hands-on parents. We don't have yayas or a maid."

They are such sabes's anchor. So Gabs turned a year older, he ate cook fresh and showed with his killer smile knowing that he comes in peace and love a in everything he does.

Net gains

Heard: Ilan Nadia Bhattacharjee was invited to be a contestant in her "Presenter" Gretchen Barretto's new game show, "Sino Ang Tatalo Sa Yo World." A someone friend revealed, "Okay daw kay Gma pero nung nanonood ng stuff si Nadia ayaw niya. Ayaw pa nanuod. Ang pangit naman no pagkatin ala sa game show. Di na muna daw kita kung nanggaan na nung nila. nandoong nood na si nadoong."

If and when Nadi will game on Gma's show, its she doesn't be changed to "Sis and Me Against Each Other."

Game enough

At the taping of Uniti's show, there was a bit of tension in the air when her rumored exflame John Estrada was a guest. Perhaps to prove that he has moved on after their "Uncrushed," John was game enough to join Gma's game show.

"Expect nakatingin ka sa host," Gma teased John. She also announced that John's GF were in a timeline like the bullet in her program's. La Gma was playing it cool while John acted cold.

Bingo girl

Could it be that Dida Rosales' new girlfriend is former "Da Bingo" Girl Elliot? They were spotted being as lovey-dovey in his bar favorite and in Subic. I texted Dida for the real score but he hasn't replied. Into the heart of Pesa game bingo?

Newest love team

"I feel like a kid all over again when I'm with Gian Ignacio," Yasmien Kurdi said. They are the Kapuso network's newest love team in Sine Novela presents "Saan Darating Ang Umaga?" Premieres today in Dreamscape na Hapon on GMA 7!.

Based on the hit movie in 1985, it's about a charity-link family unwillingly torn apart by tragedy. The acclaimed director of the original film, Maryo J. de los Reyes, will also be at the helm of the TV series.

Yas portrays the role of Sharon which was originally played by Sharon Cuneta. "Just like Sharon, I'm an only child," said Yas. "And parang first kinda-like long-term role."

When does she feel like crying out loud "Saan Darating ang Umaga? "Pag payat dun from taping and I have to go to school pa. Gusto ko i-dialogue yon. Ako na 'Pano ko ang Daigdig."

Director Princess Arevalo, Direk Quezo off cam.

Inspired by Dabuy

Not the second year in a row, Jinggoy Estrada is joining the Metro Manila Film Festival. His 2008 entry is "Magkakabaon," the moving story of two friends and their families. As a fan-man of Jinggoy, I can attest that he really goes the extra mile for his friends.

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

FERNANDO: "I didn't expect to win."

'Duets' champ BF says cash prize will help campaign

BE TOOK THE CONTEST SE-riously. And Metro Manila Development Authority chair Bayani Fernando was declared winner of GMA 7's reality show, "Celebrity Duets: Season 2," on Saturday.

Fernando also bagged P1 million in cash, part of which he plans to donate to two institutions—Children and Cotton Mouth. "If there's anything left [of the money], I'll use it to fund my campaign for the 2010 presidential elections," he told reporters by phone.

"Right now, I just want to relax and celebrate," said the chairman, who was having dinner with his wife, Malacañan Mayor Marides Fernandez, when we called.

Fernando competed with fashion designer JC Buenaflor, comedian and former Ombudsman mayor Joey Marquez, beauty titlist Codrina Aguilar, footballer and commercial model Phil Younghusband, fitness guru Gary Quinton and model-actress Gwen Swinnen-Marquez.

"I didn't expect to win. Sig-nes medyo nagsisisihan ang mga iyon sa magandahan nila," said Fernando. "I thank those who voted for me, especially the people of Marikina," Fernandez was Marikina City mayor in 1992. He was re-elected twice and was mayor until 2001. Married to Gwe-

Surprise nonshow biz birthday party ...

From page A4

Showing stellar billing with him are Dante Rivero, Michael Lasa and Christopher de Leon. It hangs to heart and mind the real-life friendship of Nograles and the late Rudy Fernandez. It is a way the movie is inspired by Rubyo, Will Nograles's inspired performance brig him the Best actor award again [illegible] last year's MMFF!

PERSONAL: Blackstone praise to the way gracious GM of The Tides Boracay, Pito Gonzales, for making me feel so comfy at home.

Thanks a mil to my dear friend Happy Ongpauco for the yummy treat in her favorite Barbeque Boys. It's a taste of heaven in Paradise island!

E-mail sweetpeabalusbalungi@yahoo.com

SM CINEMA
movietime
visit www.smcinema.com

Experience the Escape in
IMAX THEATRE
SM MALL OF ASIA

NOW SHOWING

METRO MANILA
RESERVED SEATS NOW AVAILABLE

IMAX
MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE TO AFRICA
SEA MONSTER
DINOSAURS

THE PODIUM
QUANTUM OF SOLACE
MADAGASCAR 2: ESCAPE TO AFRICA
LATE SCREENINGS

CINEMA 1
QUANTUM OF SOLACE (2D)

LUZON

SOON TO OPEN

VISAYAS • MINDANAO

ALL MOVIE TICKETS ARE NOW ACCEPTED IN ALL SM CINEMA BRANCHES

Animation congress Nov. 15

From page B1

Arleen Caligata, who is with the BS-based animation training and service provider Anthem Asia, will talk about his work there and his stint at the Burbank Animation Studios.

Benjie Aganzillo will discuss his work with Yoza City, a local studio which produces animated TV series and direct-to-video films for companies like Walt Disney and its DisneyToon Studio Division.

Tonny Dadivas (creator of "The Criminal") will speak about independent animation. Joey Agbayani ("The Son is the Sky," "Chromeribes," "Kalbo") will discuss stop motion animation.

Pablo Bigbang-ura ("The Criminal"), animator and full-length filmmaker, will talk about Cinema Arteo, a group he ushered in experimental films and animated features.

UP professor Bikkal Tiu Laurino will give an analysis of Philippine animation, while Siermes Arellano Cruz will talk about the beginnings of the Philippine Animation Studio Inc. in Pasil, one of the first locally owned animation companies.

The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the 6th floor activity area of DLSU-CSB School of Design Arts Campus on 8 Grunga Street, Malate, Manila.

Award-winning Japanese filmmaker-animator Yuka Furukawa and Associate 3D application engineer Jose Seido will also be around to share their experience.

Furukawa worked on the animated movie "Evangelion 2.0" (You Can Not Advance), a film in 3-D. His debut film, "Akanesasshe" (Red Dragonfly), premiered in 1986 at the 3rd annual Animation Festival in Japan. He is the owner of Yukua Box Co. Ltd.

On Dec. 5, 1 to 4 p.m., Furukawa will talk about his being a filmmaker and animator for over 45 years, Hagan said.

Smith, who with Incredibrik, the world's largest design software company, will discuss the shift from 2D to 3D applications on Nov. 14, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Romero, considered a veteran in the local animation industry with two decades of animation experience in 2D animation production, will be the lecturer on Nov. 13, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Holly Gamboa, who works as a Flash animation trainer and director for the University of the Philippines (UniMA), will hold a session on Nov. 13 from 1 to 4 p.m. Gamboa is also a Flash animation instructor for TV and host. Flash at the DLSU-CSB School of Design and Arts.

E-mail: mercedes.quiroz@yahoo.com.ph

ANIMATEO series like "Yogi Bear" employ Filipino graphic animators.

Concert...

From page B1

Group.

"We're not attempting to separate or distinguish ourselves from the new Jol or lead cultural groups," Rodrigo explained. "Rather, we want people to appreciate the diversity of regional traditions throughout the country. That is what makes Filipinos unique."

Survival

Former UP president and Kaisipang Buhay chairperson Jose Abueva talked about the group's goals. Governors of schools is to make all Pinoys aware of, maybe even learn to speak and write in "Binisayan" or in his other forgotten tongue, Cebuano. Bonggo and Wareg Abueva believed this would ensure the survival of these dialects.

An interesting segment of the concert, program director Chris Millado said, would be the set design by Kenneth Cobonpue, a renowned furniture designer, also Ifugao, since Ifugao reportedly inspired Fred Prat and French Prof. Jacques Nicolas Iacksey.

But more than anything else, the chance to perform to the repertoire is enough guarantee.

HEROES Harvest fighting broke out Feb. 3, 1945 in Manila. After one month of battle, the Japanese forces were defeated. The warfare took the lives of 16,500 Japanese soldiers there and 100,000 Manila residents. The Japanese forces had been ordered to "fight to the death."

Infamy in Battle of Manila retold

SHARMAIN Osbourne, left, as Brenda and Shanae Grimes as Annie in "1945."

New character, same zip code

By Lucas B. Brizuela
Contributor

SHANAE GRIMES, 18, FROM Canada, is on the brink of superstardom. That is, if fans over CW network's series "90210"—the reincarnation of the iconic '90s teen drama "Beverly Hills 90210"—gets anywhere near the original's success.

Leading the glam role of Annie Wilson, who, like her '90s predecessor Brenda Walsh (Shannen Doherty), moves with her family from the uncertain Midwest to the swanky suburbs of Beverly Hills, Shanae has big shoes to fill. So do the rest of the new generation.

Her Walsh and Channel 90 premiered "90210" on like a While the new version has parallels with the original, it's more current and with less angst.

Older viewers who followed "Beverly Hills" may not left out, though, as the adult characters are about equal exposure. There's the duo of Shannen Doherty and Jessie Soffe, whose presence could give nostalgia-hippers a rush.

Instant Entertainment interviewed Grimes via phone just prearranged hour break.

How is "90210" different from the original?

It's a lot more contemporary. The issues used in my storyline in there to the original, it wouldn't hurt parents to learn from this. My favorite [topic] is that the parents have been a bit of their own.

Tell us about Annie Wilson and her family.

The Wilson one is very tight-that's refreshing to see on TV. I had teenaged girl so disconnected from their parents and dads because they saw less issues and with their high school lives. Jessica Walson who plays my grandmother, is the most fabulous woman on the planet!

How much is Shanae Grimes like Annie Wilson?

Annie and I are different in terms of interests and style. But on full terms from a personal point-of-view.

TAKE FIVE

Your character is the Beverly Hills of this series. Has Shannen offered you advice?

The only advice she's given me is about dealing with the media and all the external stresses that come with this job. She told me to to succeed the work.

Who is your favorite character from the original series?

Jolene Mellor ... every girl's sweetheart. As for the girls I was a Brenda fan.

Is it true you beat Hilary Duff to the role?

Shanae Gilchrist Wonder's that be cool, though! Laughter. I had been auditioning for the role of Annie for about three weeks before I found out that Hilary had been offered the part. But she decided that it wasn't the best for her career, so she passed. I was the runner-up.

How different is Canadian show biz from Hollywood?

There is an easy pace in Canada, a huge part of "90210" has been the hype—billboards, commercials, promo shoots, at home I'm so not used to waking my face everywhere when I'm driving [around]. But we enjoy the career number of hours.

How are you dealing with intense media scrutiny?

It sucks!

By Gerry Flaco
Contributor

NOW YOU CAN HELP THE infants—as TV Crusaders the recent wave of mass murder and destruction in the Pacific during World War II, the Battle of Manila leveled the metropolis and claimed the lives of 100,000 people in a 28-day Japanese killing spree before US troops liberated the Philippines.

We have read this in history books, newspaper articles, Internet forums and heard it from our sit. docs who remain emotional and grief-stricken 65 years later.

Now we can witness moving pictures of the devastation in a first-ever television documentary on the events that led to the end of the Pacific area in the Philippines. History Channel's four-hour miniseries "Honoring the Battle of Manila," a comprehensive documentary that presents interviews with Filipino survivors, American troops and even the Japanese soldiers who carried out the carnage atrocity.

Never-before-seen archival video of the devastation will also be shown. These videos, showing bodies of American and Filipino soldiers and civilians on Manila's streets, present a gripping take on the senseless battle.

First-hand

According to first-hand accounts, the Japanese—faced with defeat against the Americans in the battle to liberate Manila—shot, bayoneted, burned or raped civilians in the rampage from Feb. 3 to May 3, 1945. They also destroyed and razed buildings, schools, houses and other structures.

The show will provide a voice and a face to survivors and even the perpetrators in accurately retell the devastation. In each presentation on the channel, producers recalled the campaign "All we could do was kill. We had nowhere to go," one woman survivor said.

"We were trapped," another male survivor said.

A Japanese officer who ordered the massacre also spoke: "The order was given to fire and we did. Bang! Bang! Bang!"

Indeed, a searing, riveting glimpse on what we need to know more about our history.

"Remembering the Battle of Manila" premiered yesterday, 8 p.m. on the History Channel (Global and Channel 444), with reruns on Nov. 18 (1 p.m.), 19 (30 p.m.), 21 (10 p.m.), 22 (7 p.m.) and 24 (7 a.m.)

'The Screaming Room'

TV host Mylene Gan discovered the best of Buddhist cinema when she travelled to Fiji for the latest edition of "The Screaming Room" on CNN International (premieres soon, warning guest).

Elsie visited iconic places like Jamaica, Copenhagen and somehow filmmakers are making the place their starting point and "their dripping things off into the world."

"We have been collecting elements for our Brand channels the rest of the year—four Emilies (director of 'Elite Squad') as the Berlin Film Festival, Bruno Ievorsky Club Stop 1747 in Toronto and in Cannes, Peninsula Hotel(for 'City of God,' The Counsel Gardener' and 'Blindness') and Walter Salles ('Central Station,' 'The Motorcycle Diaries' and 'Linha de Passe'), " she said.

Klaus, who's part British and part Filipino, is also an actress, singer, model, pianist, composer and former member of the short lived UK pop band Hear'Say.

Strange food

Internationally renowned chef and food writer Andrew Zimmern returns on a quest to dish out every stranger and weirder food from around the globe in a second season of "Bizarre Foods."

Andrew tried viewers beyond the senses to savor the local cuisine—even if that meant chewing on eggs with legs, swallowing a beating dog's heart or polishing off a turtle's eyeball.

The show airs every Tuesday at 9 p.m. and encores every Saturday at 2 p.m.

ER action

Discovery Channel's new series "911: The Rescue" takes viewers straight to the emergency rooms before all the 24 hours-plus hospital or emergency cases are captured on film.

Among the life-threatening cases are a man who landed on his head after falling four stories, a 12-year-old boy victim of a hit-and-run, a newborn with a potentially life-threatening infection, a shopkeeper who was shot in the head at point-blank range, a woman who accidentally drank a bottle of cleaning fluid and a patient who fell 12-stories off the roof of a building.

Episodes air every Friday at 21 p.m., with encores on Saturdays at midnight and Sunday at 8 a.m.

Latest in 'Indiana Jones' series

IN THE LATEST "INDIANA Jones" installment, the year is 1957 and Indiana Jones encounters into the jungles of South America in a new against Soviet agents to find the mythical Crystal Skull. Reliving his role as Indiana Jones, Harrison Ford returns with Karen Allen (Marion Ravenwood) and new additions Cate Blanchett (Col. Dr. Irina Spalko), Ray Winstone (Mac Mallahe), John Hurt (Dr. Oxley), Jim Broadbent (Dean Charles Stanforth) and Shia LaBeouf (Brad Williams).

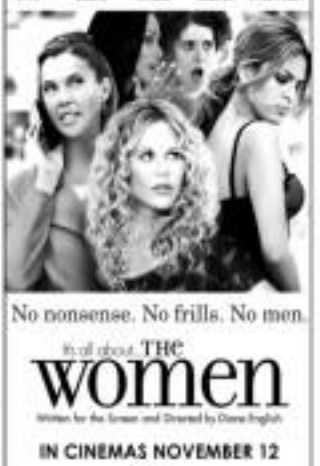
'Iron Man'

Tony Stark is a billionaire industrialist and genius inventor who is kidnapped and forced to build a devastating weapon. Using his intelligence and ingenuity, he builds a high-tech suit of armor and escapes captivity. Starring are Oscar nominee Robert Downey Jr. (Stark), Jeff Bridges (Obadiah Stane), Terrence Howard (Lt. Col. James Rhodes) and Gwyneth Paltrow (Pepper Potts).

NOW ON DISC

'The Incredible Hulk'

Edward Norton stars as scientist Bruce Banner who desperately hunts for a cure to the gamma radiation that poisoned his cells and unleashes the unbridled force of rage within him: The Hulk. The movie also stars Liv Tyler (Betty Ross), William Hurt (Thunderbolt Ross) and Tim Roth (The Abomination).



Daring dozen

From page D1

Dyogi described them as the daring and determined dozen.

Bobbleting Marine Angeles de la Cruz received cross on bodies and cuisine in Australia, Venezuela to Hotel Felix Dunkel the board exams twice before passing on his third try.

Model Jessy Trevino also aced third after being beaten up by the family of a married woman she cooked up to bed with.

Adding to our fantasy lineup, gave the most heated reason for joining DPP. "To meet the female participants."

E-mail: bayaninsundays@hotmail.com

Daring dozen

'Pinoy Fear Factor' premieres tonight on ABS-CBN

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

ON THE SET OF "PINOY FEAR FACTOR" (PFF) in Argentina, host Ryan Agoncillo recalled that the show's 12 contestants would often get startled whenever they heard his voice.

"They get shell-shocked," related Agoncillo. "When we wrapped taping, I treated them to a night out. I didn't want them to have bad memories of our stay in Buenos Aires."

Actually Agoncillo pointed out that it took a lot to daunt the 12 "participantes," as the contestants are called.

According to Lauren Dyogi, ABS-CBN Business Unit Head for the original 12, only one backed out, a single mom. "We initially had six boys and six girls. But since one female contestant quit, we ended up with five girls and seven boys."

The female participantes, especially the celebrities, put up a good fight, said Dyogi.

TV host Phoemela Baranda insisted that she joined PFF precisely because "the didn't want to be heard as a celebrity" or all glamour and glitz.

Like Phoemela, the other participantes wanted to prove something to themselves, their families and the public.

Actress Li Morena noted that the show severes as "affirmation that I'm not the same girl I used to be."

Case in point: Li's to stress that, during her time away from show biz, she studied early childhood education and is now a preschool teacher.

Aspiring chef Jose Sarasola asserted that he doesn't want to be perceived as another spoiled kid from the suburbs. "I have a lot to offer."

Jose, however, was the first to get his

ELMER Pado

LI MORENO

JENNA Domingson

by interpreters. Even before the show's Nov. 10 launch, his purported nude photos were posted online. Dyogi nipped the controversy in the bud: "I checked and it's not him in the pictures."

Bikini-brained winner Gil Nicolas admitted: "I want to overcome my fears." Chief among her phobias are being suspended in heights and confined to dark places.

Former super Bam Bagad claimed that he joined the show "to restore one of my comfort zone ... It's my first time to be separated from my family."

Dyogi explained that the Expandiya network "Pilipinized" the Endemol franchise. As such, most of the participantes are a tad forthcoming about their sob stories.

Struggling businessman Manuel Chua Jr. singled out his 4-year old daughter as his main reason for joining PFF and "failure" as his greatest fear.

FIND OUT IF YOU'RE A BEST VALUE OR A BASIC WIRELESS KIND OF PERSON

1. Would you rather
a. Get free gas for 1 year?
b. Never encounter a red traffic light again?

2. If you could only choose one, would it be
a. World peace?
b. True love?

3. If you only had eight strands of hair left on your head, would you rather they were
a. Straight?
b. Curly?

4. Do you often call friends on their cellphones or landlines even if they're in places like Davao or Iloilo?
a. Yes
b. No

5. Would you rather
a. Become popular doing a job you hate?
b. Do something you love that nobody appreciates?

6. Do you make more IDD calls to countries such as the U.S., Hong Kong or Japan?
a. Yes, Oh! Yes
b. No

7. Would you rather live in
a. The middle of a scorching desert?
b. A frozen wasteland?

If you answered (a) to either Question 4 or 5, you'd better grab a P888 BEST VALUE package. If you answered (b) to both, you're better off with a P488 BASIC WIRELESS.

BASIC WIRELESS
P488/Month
- Unlimited Calls to landlines within the same area code
- Unlimited Texts Bayan to Bayan nationwide

BEST VALUE
P888/Month
Basic Wireless privileges plus
- Unlimited Calls Bayan to Bayan nationwide
- More affordable NDD and IDD call rates than Basic Wireless
- Free P100 monthly for NDD and Texts to other networks

bayan wireless unlimited

FREE DELIVERY
CALL (02) 497-3000

THE MUST-SEE ROMANTIC MOVIE OF THE YEAR!

DANIEL PADILLA KATHRYN BERNARDO MARIAN RIVERA
with IZA CALZADO

One True Love

True love may come more than once in a lifetime...

Directed by MARC D. ALEJANDRE

OPENS IN THEATERS NOV. 19

JOSE Sarasola

Read my comic and Glendinning sales agent Jenna Domingson said that the Fil-million-sash prize would help her dad retire from his job as construction worker in Jeepers.

RJ Calipso, a comedian from Tondo, announced that "Oh he has been rough for my wife and two daughters. It hurts me every time I see them sick or hungry."

Lodge dancer Sarwesh Lamsey admitted that PFF is her entry point to show biz. She believes that fame "would help give back to my family the comfortable life we once had."

GOOD will battle EVIL.
One of US. One of THEM.
CHOOSE A SIDE.

HEROES EVOLUTION

New Season Starts Tonight.
Catch it every Monday at 8PM

GMA 7

LEARNING
Editor Chalin Bared Perfecto

Musical high school in Ilocandia

Ilocos Norte National High School has three choirs: the award-winning Samiweng Singers, the INNHS Youth Choir and the Coro Ilocano

AWARD-WINNING Samiweng Singers (top) and (above) Coro Ilocano, which is composed of alumni of the parent choir, some of whom now teach music at INNHS

By Cristina Arzadon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LAOAG CITY—THE ILOCOS NORTE National High School in this city may not approximate the popularity and looks of East High School in the US state of Utah—setting of the hit series "High School Musical"—but it can boast an outfit of achievement-winning music traditions.

INNHS maintains three choirs: the Youth Choir (a mixed choir), the Samiweng Singers (composed of soprano and alto singers) and the Coro Ilocano (another mixed choir).

Since the 1970s, the Samiweng Singers have captivated the Ilocano community with their world-class performances. Of late, their audience has grown to national proportions.

Composed of more than 20 members who have been carefully selected from among INNHS students, the Samiweng Singers are a choir of equal voices. Male students who have not reached the candidacy (changing voice) stage are qualified to become members.

The choir is "on leave" under the direction of Robert Cabuyo, now also the INNHS assistant director for special arts, since 1990 when he took over from their mentor Sonia Morales.

The group has also created waves in the national music scene by topping the prestigious National Music Competition for Young Artists (Namcya) in 1993 and again in 2002.

Exceptional

Considering the set-up and plight of the country's school music program, the campus-based Samiweng Singers is exceptional.

Music is not a major concern in most public schools in the Philippines. But in 2008, the Department of Education designed a high school curriculum that emphasized the arts through subjects like creative writing, dance, theater and drama, media and visual arts, and music, with focus on voice, classical guitar, violin and piano.

The INNHS is one of 17 pilot schools included in the DepEd special arts program.

Poor implementation

Cabuyo says the program, although commendable, is not properly implemented. "Most schools do not have music rooms, not even set instruments as basic as the piano. Teachers assigned to conduct music subjects cannot sing or play any instrument."

He notes that other school deans do not survive because they are organized only to participate in the Namcya.

"After the competition, the choirs are dismantled. The INNHS choir is an exception because it is part of the school's tradition," he says.

Cabuyo says their singing as well as playing in marching bands, drums and bugle or lyre corps and the rondalla are considered extra curricular activities for the students. Rehearsals are conducted outside class hours.

But beginning next year, the choir and rondalla are expected to become major subjects, with academic attending classes in Beginning and Advanced Music Theory and Composition. Midyear performances and recitals will be a basis for grading students.

Not one but three

Cabuyo says the INNHS program for the arts is doing well because of the school's leadership and the community's support.

Former school principal Danny Bagsing had lobbied for additional support from Laoag Mayor Michael Farinas, who allocated funds for culture and arts development.

Cabuyo assembled the Coro Ilocano in 1996 from among original members and alumni of the INNHS Youth Choir. Some of the Coro's members are now teaching in the school.

The choir auditioned and became one of only four qualifiers from the Philippines in the World Choir Games which were held in Graz, Austria, in July this year. The other three were the Kilyawan Boys' Choir of Quezon City, the Hiraya Singers of Davao and the Las Piñas Boys' Choir. Unfortunately, Coro Ilocano had to back out of the competition due to shortage of funds.

Choral singing being a tradition in the INNHS, Cabuyo says, it should not be surprising that the school continues to produce a youth choir that is on par with the country's best singing groups.

He recalls that the Samiweng Singers' weakest subvoices where's haggard the 2002 Namcya trophy. "I had just returned from a short stint abroad when I was told that we were competing in the national level."

Cabuyo rehearsed seven concert pieces with the singers, advised them to memorize these in time for the competition and ensured his singers.

The Samiweng Singers' winning performances have been immortalized in video clips posted on YouTube for the world audience to see.

Shortly after winning the national award, the Samiweng Singers stood beside foreign choirs that performed before a packed audience at the International Youth Music Festival in Manila.

The choir's 2004 recording of a repertoire ranging from classical and Renaissance to OPM (original Pilipino music), is not commercially available but has been reproduced by INNHS alumni who would always ask for copies during homecomings.

Cabuyo, who attended workshops with renowned music professors from the University of the Philippines, has started mentoring new conductors for the Samiweng Singers and the INNHS Youth Choir.

Still the conductor maestro for the INNHS choral groups, he is hopeful that the present crop of Samiweng Singers would continue the tradition of bringing beautiful music to the campus, the community and the country, if not the world.

INNHS Youth Choir, a mixed chorale composed of high school students, from freshman to senior, in rehearsals with conductor Robert Cabuyo

Are you a dog lover?

READ the label.

Dog lovers should read the label of their dog food to find out if their dogs are getting the best nutrition.

VALUEMEAL is a complete dog food that offers the right amount of high-grade lamb and beef protein not plant protein. It also has whole grain cereals for consistent quality.

VALUEMEAL has essential omega oils like sunflower and canola that provide for healthy skin and lustrous coat.

NO CHICKEN AND NO BYPRODUCTS.

VALUEMEAL is hypoallergenic, highly digestible and ensures that your dog absorbs all the essential nutrients. Your dog will have small and firm stool with minimum smell.

Your dog will have more power and stamina, healthy skin and a thick coat with superior shine.

Read the ingredients in the label and make sure that your dog is getting the best.

VITALITY VALUEMEAL DOGFOOD

DOG FRIENDLY ...nothing to harm your pet!

*available in petshops, veterinary clinics and poultry stores.

A showcase of high school students' creativity

ASSUMPTION COLLEGE, together with the Institute for Social Entrepreneurship and the Entrepreneurs School of Asia, is hosting the third Tangopreneur Challenge Nov. 19-21, 08:00pg-Wall & Tennessee Area, beside the skating rink. Under Ground Floor. Supported by the Association of Filipino Franchisees Inc. and Schlegenz, the event will feature grand pitching by students of Ateneo de Manila, Applied High School, Lourdes of Malabon, Bataan High School, Mount Carmel High School, Miriam College, Tabernacle of Faith Christian Academy, Xavier School, San Beda College, Puerto Galera Academy, Bros. Kordia School and Isabel Jesus Academy, among others.

PUP president Guimaras, Bataan mayors Rosalio M. Marcelo and Cong Jilmore V. Umali

PUP Open University in Oriental Mindoro

THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY of the Philippines (PUP) and Oriental Mindoro have signed a memorandum of agreement to establish the PUP Open University of Mindoro in the town of Bansud. PUP will offer Master in Educational Management and Master in Public Administration under a non-traditional program. Other courses may be opened later depending on demand. University president Emmanuel B. Gueco Jr. said PUP would pay the salaries and other benefits of faculty members while the provincial government will take care of administrative staff and other employees. Bansud will provide and maintain the university campus. The agreement is effective for 12 years, renewable for another five years. The PUP Open University in Bansud will be a vocational-technical school, likened to the 13th PUP Open University center.

NEC (POINT) of San Beda College's scholarship grants to non-teaching personnel in middle there to pursue his/her studies.

San Beda offers study grants to employees

SAN BEDA COLLEGE is offering scholarship grants to non-teaching personnel and qualified employees to be under its Career Pathing Program for the Non-Teaching Personnel. Grantees get 100 percent tuition fee discount and P3,000 book and P5,000 thesis writing subsidies. The Human Resource Management Office also accepts handing assistance to partially pay for miscellaneous fees. Earned SCPP subsidies receive 100 percent subsidy for miscellaneous fees. The scholars are: Albert C. Silva, College of Maritime Architecture; Bondoc, Dir/Prefect of Student Affairs Office; Rogelio G. Abrenica, Basic Education Department; Ricky C. Sabajonog, SHS Dentist Office; Francis Mark T. Serrano, Registrar's Office; Dionne S. Ramirez, Human Resource Management Office; and Jaime F. Fontanilla, Office of the Vice Rector and Basic Education Department Principal.

Educators meet at University of Mindanao

THE UNIVERSITY OF MUSLIMAN hosted the recent Mindanao Educators' Forum with the theme "Trends, Updates and Challenges in Teaching Business Administration Subjects" and under the Continuing Education Program of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). Technical Committee for Business Administration, in partnership with the Philippine Council of Deans and Educators in Business (PCDEB). Chief executives of the Institute Board Monitoring certification for Southeast Mindanao also shared recently (BM) best services and updates. Meanwhile, UM is ranked 18th among the country's over 300 academic institutions.

UE MANILA STUDENTS' ON-THE-JOB TRAINING
The University of the East Manila College of Business Administration (CBA) students with do their on-the-job training or Extensive Telecommunications, Inc. In photo are UE president Edwin A. Garcia (3rd from left), UE Manila CBA associate dean Veronica Elizabeth Knight (...) and Extensive executives Corazon Nobbi Dimaano and Alfredo V. Princesa III during the recent signing of the Memorandum of Agreement covering the partnership.

Lyceum sets presidential scholarship examination

QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS for the Jose P. Laurel-Benigno R. Laurel Presidential Scholarship at Lyceum of the Philippines University will be held this 15, 22, 29 and Dec. 6 and 13. The tests are open to fourth year high school students in the top 10 percent of graduating classes of at least 50 students. Applicants should submit a certification from their principals attesting that they belong to the top two percent and are of good moral character. The certification should indicate the total number of graduating students and the applicant's ranking based on the most recent grading period. Scholars will be entitled to free tuition and miscellaneous fees, P2,000 a month stipend, semestral medical assistance and uniform allowance every school year. Call 5211758 or 4041415.

Adamson alumnus gets DOST award

DR. ROLAND MARIANO, PH.D., one of the 70 Most Outstanding Alumni of Adamson University, received The Outstanding Scholar for Research from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) for his paper "Modeling and Optimization of Copper/Iron/Carbon Dioxide Reduction on Reactive Surface Methodology". The award was presented during the Biennial Assembly of Science and Technology Awards Banquet and Scientific Meeting on "Energy Security and Sustainability: Assessing the Present and Foreseeing the Future". Mariano is currently vice-chancellor for academic affairs at de la Salle University-Manila. His research was a collaboration with Hiroshi Kubo, Dr. Reynaldo Rappolla, Mitch Rocha, Fisher Iv M. Malabanan, and Justin Kennedy. Mariano graduated from Adamson University in 1978 with a BS in Chemical Engineering degree.

CBU honors loyal employees, alumni

THE CENTRO ESCOLAR University marked the annual Loyalty Day with the theme, "True Colors of Diamond: one, integrity, commitment and resiliency". Employees who had selflessly served the university were cited. Per-son-alized who continued to believe in CBU by wearing their children to the school were also honored. The program started with a mass in honor of Dr. Concepcion E. Apolo, followed by the unveiling of the CBU Centennial Monument by chief Jonyce. In photo are Mr. Ma. Cristina D. Padolina (center), CEU president and chief executive officer, with Centennial Executive Committee chair and Corporate Treasurer and CBU School of Public Administration alumni Dr. Paul L. Lorenzo.

HONORARY DEGREE
Robert Lim Joseph (3rd R-wet left), honorary consul of the Republic of Liberia and chair emeritus of the National Association of Independent Travel Agencies, was conferred the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Management, honoris causa, by the International Academy of Management and Economics (IAME) for his achievements in business and management and service during the school's graduation ceremonies. Josephine is the commencement speaker. Dr. Emmanuel F. Soriano (2nd from left), IAME chair-CEO, presided over the conferment. Looking on are Dr. Cecilia de la Cruz (2nd left) and IAME BSBA graduate.

DLSU's new partner in post-graduate training

THE DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY-College of Computer Studies (DLSU-CCS) has partnered with Microsoft Philippines in developing the post-graduate consulting service Microsoft Protégé Program. Under the program, world-class information technology training will be given to new graduates and consulting engagements will be offered across the country. The program aims to deepen the graduates' expertise in technical services and consulting. The program officially started with four participants. DLSU hosts the country's first Microsoft Innovation Center, a facility for collaboration on innovative research, technology or software solutions. A memorandum of understanding between DLSU-CCS and Microsoft was signed by Ric Bernard, DLSU-Ace Counselor for external relations and Lourdes Mendoza and Mario Amor Villarin, Microsoft's human resources director.

My Lyceum SIM card launched in Batangas

LYCEUM OF THE PHILIPPINES University in Batangas has formally launched the My Lyceum Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) powered by Globe. The new SIM provides convenient interactions between the school and students. Lyceum is the first in Batangas to have the SIM Globe Telecom tailored exclusively for Lyceans. Special features include access to students' grades and school updates and calendar. A feedback feature lets students give comments and suggestions via short message service (SMS). A school event feature lets the school send urgent announcements like cancellation of classes. Present at the launch of the new SIM during the celebration of Freshmen Day 2018 were LPU's Dr. Benito R. Bernal and Dennis P. Alfonso, Globe Telecom's South Luzon regional business head.

Playgrounds for the Mind

Homeschool confab held Nov. 22

THE SECOND PHILIPPINE Homeschool Conference will be held Nov. 22, 7am-5pm, at SF 33, Friends Disaster Behind SM Megamall Bldg. #, ADD Avenue, Mandaluyong City. Theme of the conference is "Launch your Kids for Life-Success." The event is organized by the Mission's Academy Homeschool. It will feature discussions on parenting and other homeschool success stories, games, rallies, and other fun activities for kids. Participants will get conference kits and other surprises. Registration is P500 per adult, and P50 per kid 5-12 years old. Advance price free for kids 0-5 years old. Contact Gay Bennett at 6359897 local 100.

Join video contest and win US$10,000

EDGE, "THE WORLD'S LEADer in networking, has launched the "Digital Cities: Heaven or Hell" video contest. Two Grand Prize winners will each receive $5,000. The contest is part of Cisco's Digital Cities Web series.

Participants may enter the contest online until Nov. 26. Video submissions will be posted on the contest Web site at digitalcities.com for the public to view and rate until Dec. 5. Winners will be announced on Dec. 8. Five finalists will receive $500 gift cards. Participants (18 years or older) may enter a three-minute video explaining why their home network is a technology "heaven" or "hell". Digital "heaven" will showcase interesting and unique uses of consumer technology and how a network-wide "hell" will focus on problems.

For contest rules, visit http://www.cisco.com/web/consumerheaven_or_hell/terms.html.

EUREKA! *Queenie N. Lee-Chua*

Bronze medal raises hopes of a gold at math Olympiad

AFTER A DECADE, THE PHILippines finally got a bronze medal at the most prestigious mathematics test in the world.

In July, Diogo Miguel Monteiro de Almeida from the Ateneo High School did his country proud at the 49th International Math Olympiad (IMO) in Madrid, Spain. His teammates were Jeffrey Kenneth Go and Mark Benedict Tan, both from Xavier High School. They were trained by professors Ian Garces of Ateneo de Manila University and Julius Basilla of the University of the Philippines, Diliman.

More than 500 contestants from 102 countries and territories joined the IMO, the world's largest and most difficult secondary level math competition.

Preparation

How were the contestants selected? The first step was the Philippine Math Olympiad where 30 finalists were chosen to attend a Summer Camp in Baguio. They listened to lectures by university professors, including Adrian Vilchez and Carlo David of UP, and Timothy Teng of Ateneo.

The students were given four tests, each consisting of three problems to be solved in two hours. Six students made it to the next phase.

"It is important to spot students who have the real heart and the proper discipline for problem solving," says Garces. The list was later narrowed to five because one student, Edit Nantes, decided to train for the International Physics Olympiad. (He got a bronze medal in Hanoi, Vietnam, under the guidance of Berry Librado of the UP National Institute of Physics.)

For six weeks, the five finalists attended a high level college class run by Ateneo professors Dr. Emmanuela Bolaños and me in the morning, for the afternoons, Garces and Basilla took turns in translating them into pure IMO problems. Finally, three were chosen for the official Philippine team.

The team's skills were further honed by past IMO contestants Glen Ong and Richard Eden at a two-day workshop at the UP National Institute for Math and Science Development.

"Training with the coaches continued everyday (including lunch breaks) till the IMO. Everyone was sponsored by the Math Society of the Philippines and the Science Education Institute of the Department of Science and Technology.

Misconceptions

IMO contestants were expected to solve as many of the six non-routine problems as they could, within a few hours in two days. "The problems were within the reach of our students," says Garces. "Not easy, but not very hard. In fact, I expected them to solve the first two problems on geometry and inequalities." Indeed, Diogo got perfect scores in these two questions.

In the past, the Philippines did not do very well in the IMO. But after the experience his year, Garces says many of his own better-performing students would be back next year to try their luck. "Many of the students from other countries are two years older than ours," he says, "because their pre-university education requires this. I used to believe that these students were equipped with more math. But the three perfect scores this year (two from China and one from the United States) were younger than our students! This means that age may not be a gauge of good performance in the IMO."

Garces also used to think that lack of background was a disadvantage. "Before we embarked on the training, Diogo's math background was not sufficient. He didn't like Math and, left to me, who already received training from the Mathematics Trainers' Guild, Diogo did not undergo special training, except for a few years from the Science Problem Solvers Group. On several occasions, when we mentioned a certain theorem, say Fermat's Little Theorem, Diogo's reaction would be, 'What's that?'...this lack of tools averted me [and], because of this, I personally learned the wisdom on the basics, while the other trainees did more advanced techniques. But it was precisely this lack of math background that made Diogo discipline himself to learn more, so he got a medal."

Diogo agrees. "I think it was a combination of my undemanding of math and my motivation," he says. "My background in logic, among other things, helped me understand and absorb new topics quickly and in a manner that allowed me to remember the logic behind the math rather than simply memorizing all the concepts, which seems impossible for a student with topics as wide as those of the IMO. I also told myself this was a once in a lifetime chance to prove myself to the world. That's why I pushed myself a little harder."

Going for the gold

Training is more important than motivation, right? Wrong. "I thought that we only needed to make the students hard, and motivation would come as a result," says Garces. "Diogo proved me wrong. The first selection scheme would be to choose only those students who love problem solving, those who, when given, would do problems in their free time. Before we train students, we must ensure if that they love what they do, not because their parents or schools want them to succeed. Right now, even when he is in college, Diogo still asks me to send him problems to solve. That is the mark of real Olympians."

What advice does Diogo have for future contestants? "Aim for the gold. I was aiming for the gold and I got the score for the very last question. You always want to aim high...even if it seems impossible. Because you never want to do less than what you are possibly do."

"In the years to come, starting from a reasonably high-standard PMO, we need to make the preparation more intensive, more extensive and more productive," says Garces. "Let's join hands, for the gold medal to ribbon our mask!"

E-mail Queenie H. Lee-Chua at: [illegible]@yahoo.com.

Victorious Olympiad team! (L-R) John Basilla, Jeffrey Kenneth Go, Diogo Monteiro de Almeida, Mark Benedict Tan, Ian Garces

FranklinCovey & CLCI present

The author of

Sean Covey in

It's your Choice!

TeenChat with SEAN COVEY

November 25, 2008
It's Your Choice! TeenChat with Sean Covey
3:00-5:00 pm Henry Lee Irwin Theater, Ateneo De Manila University, Katipunan, Loyola Heights, QC

November 26, 2008
It's Your Choice! TeenChat with Sean Covey
8:30 - 10:30 am 2/F Every Nation Leadership Institute, 2nd St. cor. University Parkway, Fort Global City, Taguig (Book launch & signing follows)

In cooperation with

ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Reedley International School

FOR TICKETS:
Call 8172726 (132|133) or visit any TicketNet outlet.

Sean will also be at the following events:

November 25, 2008
Keynote Speaker
"Transitions for Youth Success"
11th SEAMEO INNOTECH Int'l Conference
SEAMEO INNOTECH, Quezon City

November 26, 2008
Round Table Discussion on the Leader in Me
2:30 - 5:00 pm CLCI, 4/F Ateneo Professional Schools, 130 HV dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City

Sean Covey is the senior vice president of Innovations and Products at FranklinCovey, a world-renowned organization devoted to helping individuals and organizations achieve greatness. Sean graduated from BYU with a degree in English and later earned his M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.

He is the author of Fourth Down and Life to Go, The 6 Most Important Decisions You'll Ever Make, and the international bestseller The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens, which has sold over three million copies and was translated into more than fifteen languages. He is a popular speaker to youth and adult groups on topics such as leadership (www.seancovey.com).

FranklinCovey products and services are distributed in the Philippines by the Center for Leadership and Change, Inc. 4/F Ateneo Professional Schools, 130 HV dela Costa Street, Salcedo, 1227
T: 8172726 | F: 8819106

Helping you become the best that you can be!

INQUIRER IN EDUCATION

IIE Lesson Plan Contest September Winner

Wordless editorials

A lesson plan on critical reading

THIS LESSON PLAN, EXCERPTED FROM the entry designed for sixth graders by Lucelda Thelma C. Liberato of Davao City, makes use of lessons collected earlier.

Overview

Newspaper editorial cartoons can be an effective, valuable resource material for teaching and learning in the classroom. Like the editorial, this is a permanent feature of the editorial page. It expresses comments or opinions on issues and it seeks to influence public opinion. This lesson will focus on the use of editorial cartoons in developing critical thinking skills among students. The class will be made to interpret and evaluate information shown in the cartoons and discuss it. In the course of their discussion, the students will be able to reflect on their different viewpoints and considerations. The humor of cartoons also contributes to group interaction.

Objective

Interpret and evaluate information in editorial cartoons.

Materials

Clippings of editorial cartoons from the lessons's Opinion section, teacher resource sheets, activity sheets, Manila paper, sheets of paper, marking pens, masking tape

Procedure

I. Motivation and review

1. Ask the class the following questions: How many of you read the newspaper? Which section do you read first? Why?
2. Review the parts/sections of a newspaper.

II. Lesson proper

Explain to the class that editorial or political cartoons express opinions on public issues. They are readily accessible, appearing in every major newspaper in the world (and in many local and regional papers), as well (and appeal to all levels of readers. The people who draw these cartoons possess a special skill that often incorporates caricatures, symbolism, satire, and a well-rounded understanding of the issues about which they draw.

A. Using one cartoon for the entire class

1. Post on the board an enlarged copy of an editorial cartoon (see editorial cartoon 1).
2. Divide the class into groups of six students.
3. Distribute Student Activity Sheet 1 to each group.
4. Instruct the groups to interpret and analyze the posted cartoon as to the issue presented, opinions shown, the newspaper's opinions and their own opinions about the issue.
5. Ask representatives from each group to present their outputs.
6. Process the activity by asking: What insight did you get from the activity?

B. Using a different cartoon for each group

1. Form the students into eight groups.
2. Distribute Student Activity Sheet 2 and a different editorial cartoon to each group (see editorial cartoons 2-4).
3. Instruct the groups to interpret and analyze the cartoons and answer the questions on the activity sheet.
4. Ask representatives to present their outputs to the class.
5. Process the activity by asking: How did you come up with your answers?

C. Individual setting

1. Using the same cartoon used in the previous activity, instruct students to take another close look at the cartoon.
2. Ask them to articulate their thoughts in one paragraph.
3. Collect outputs to be inserted in their portfolio.

III. Evaluation/extension

Ask the students to make their own editorial cartoon based on any issue confronting the country today.

Activity Sheet 1

Directions: Interpret and analyze the cartoon clip King in the chart below.

Issue	Cartoonist said	Paper's opinion	My own opinion

Activity Sheet 2

Directions: Interpret and analyze the cartoons. Answer the following questions:

Questions	Answers
1. What is the cartoon saying?	
2. What other interpretations may be made from this cartoon?	
3. What symbols are used?	
4. Who are the characters?	
5. What is suggested about the context of the cartoon?	
6. Do you agree/disagree with what the cartoon is saying? Why? Why not?	

Cartoon 1, Opinion page, PDI, July 10, 2000

Cartoon 2, Opinion page, PDI, June 26, 2000

Cartoon 3, Opinion page, PDI, March 31, 2000

Cartoon 4, Opinion page, PDI, June 21, 2000

Classical music can stimulate young minds

By Pablo A. Tadiosa

MUSIC TEACHERS IN THE CITIES OF Cotabato and Ozamis City have urged the revival of music lessons in the curriculum of public schools to help stimulate young minds.

The teachers issued the call after learning from Professor Reynaldo Reyes that listening to classical music produces more brain cells and makes young minds more active and intelligent.

Reyes, a full-time professor at the Iloilo State University in Baliwasan, said he was saddened that music was no longer part of the public school curriculum. He said such studies showed that studying or listening to classical music developed more neurons.

PIANIST'S hand: Santisimo and Reynaldo Reyes

Education Undersecretary Fe Hidalgo said music was stripped from the curriculum to give learners more time to acquire functional literacy, numeracy, orderly thinking and questioning.

The Batangas-born Reyes, who graduated with top honors from the Paris Conservatory, named the Korea, Japan and Singapore used classical music to produce better citizens and promote their countries.

Pianists Reyes and legend Aida Santos, mama seen in the rare Mindanao cities recently to perform.

Teacher Elizabeth Ayog said the dropping of music from the curriculum resulted in young musical talents not getting the basic training and doing more pop music than classical.

Dipolog's prodigy

During Reyes' visit, concert lovers were treated to an impromptu performance by Waheed Santisimo, an 11-year-old piano prodigy from Dipolog.

Reyes stressed the enduring appeal of classical music. He pointed out that despite all kinds of economic and social upheavals over the years, classical music still managed to keep its universal following.

Santisimo said classical music did not require him the people to enjoy. People could listen to it at home or go to live concerts like the ones she had been giving in the last seven years.

"Classical music is something that will be with us because music makes a Filipino a total person in mind, heart and soul," she said.

Reyes and Santisimo have logged a total of 333 concerts from August to Davao, playing an average of two to six concertos per performance.

The only places the pianists have not yet visited are Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and Bataan.

PWU ad major wins Christmas tubwrap contest

PAUL JOSHUA, A FILIPINO Women's University First Year fine student majoring in advertising, won the top prize in the Magnolia Ice Cream Christmas Tubwrap Design Contest.

Theme of the contest was "Universal Christmas."

Rossi's design will be used in this year's sale of Magnolia Ice Cream Christmas flavors. The tubs will be manufactured using the latest technology of in-mold labeling. Labels are attached to the tubs while the plastic is in the mold making them part of the tubs.

Magnolia Ice Cream tubs are tamper proof-locked to prevent contamination. They are also reusable, microwave-safe, and feature cheerful Christmas designs.

Rossi says he was surprised that his was because he thought his design was "very simple." He encourages other young people to develop their creativity in any art form and to express what is in their mind and heart through art.

He says they should join competitions to develop their creativity, technique and skill and should demonstrate originality and artistic style.

In organizing the competition, Magnolia Ice Cream says it wants to help today's youth gain confidence in themselves and their abilities.

PWU student Paul Rossi receives his award from Magnolia Ice Cream representatives Pinky Custodio and Maye Aleon (right) for his winning design (above).

Choral competition, parol-making contest launched

THE MANILA Broadcasting Company's Paskong Pinoy will be highlighted by Himig ng Pasko competitions for children, choirs and for academic institutions, churches, special interest groups, as well as companies or agencies. Auditions are ongoing. The contest will be held on Dec. 8-13 at the Star Theater in the Star City Complex. A parol-making competition, "Ilaw ng Pasko," seeks to reinterpret the Christmas tradition by merging recycling techniques and folk craft. Entries should be submitted not later than Dec. 5. Top prize in all categories is P1 00,000. For competition mechanics and choral audition schedules, call 8129208 and 09194141663 or e-mail kacie-galdeoncado.net.

MMBQ 2007 grand champion Mbac ng Pilipinas